

THE
SATURDAY REVIEW

OF
POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 3,216 Vol. 123.

16 June 1917.

[REGISTERED AS A
 NEWSPAPER.] 6d.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	537	MIDDLE ARTICLES—continued.		CORRESPONDENCE—continued.	
LEADING ARTICLES:		Italy and Albania. By Eduardo P. Ginistrelli	547	An Imagist	550
The Cease of Majesty	540	VERSE:		A Smoker's Complaint	551
Messines	540	Wides. By Capt. H. Chésterman	548	Ireland	551
Revolution While you Wait	542	CORRESPONDENCE:		Men Seated, Women Standing	551
The Great War: Appreciation (No. 150). By Brigadier-General F. G. Stone, C.M.G.	542	The Man's Part in the War and the Woman's.—II. (M. E. Simkins)	548	REVIEWS:	
MIDDLE ARTICLES:		Italy and Dalmatia (D. Janitsch)	548	The Sound of English (Reviewed by W. H. Chesson)	551
Irish Impressions. By Sir Lees Knowles	544	America and England	540	At the Front	552
Mr. Steer's New Manner. By C. H. Collins Baker	545	Reprisals	540	A Nightmare Novel	553
Drumont and Anti-Semitism. By Ernest Dimnet	546	Art and the Commonwealth	549	The Political Ballad	554
		Women in the War	550	Latest Books	556
		The Party Truce	550	FINANCE:	
		Slaughtering the Protectors of Our Food	550	Insurance Supplement	i-xx

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

We admire the language of the King and the language of the Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France because both are simple, straight, sincere. The diction of bombast and of clichés, the imitation jewelry of speech, is wholly absent alike from the messages of the King and from the despatches of the Commander-in-Chief. That is why they make a deep and enduring impression on the best part of the nation. Take, for instance, the message which the King sent to the Commander-in-Chief after Messines: "I rejoice that, thanks to thorough preparation and splendid co-operation of all arms, the important Messines Ridge, which has been the scene of so many memorable struggles, is again in our hands. Tell General Plumer and the Second Army how proud we are of this achievement, by which in a few hours the enemy was driven out of strongly entrenched positions held by him for two and a half years". We want nothing better than this upstanding English.

We refer elsewhere to Messines. The military position on the Western Front has never been so secure for the Allied Cause as it is to-day, in spite of anxieties due to conditions in the East and the fact that the German Army has probably not from the start of the war been numerically more formidable than it is now, after three signal defeats and heavy losses in men and material at Arras, Vimy Ridge and Messines. The British Army is reaching its zenith, though there are flaws very likely here and there. At home, too, the machine is admirably run. It has just the Secretary of State it wants in Lord Derby. He works without the least parade or fuss, which is the efficient method.

Major William Redmond's death at the front has wrung the heart of many an old opponent. He was a valiant gentleman and soldier, and his appeal for

recruits to keep up the Irish divisions in France was one of the finest documents of the war.

The end of the Greek crisis is spoken of, and the abdication of King Constantine in favour of his second son, Prince Alexander, should clear up the situation. M. Jonnart is now in Athens as High Commissioner of the Protecting Powers of Greece, and he has announced that the Allies intend to purchase the crops of Thessaly and see to their equitable distribution among the Greek provinces. Allied troops have entered Thessaly, and there has so far been no organised resistance apart from a treacherous attack which was not to the advantage of the Greek soldiers. Allied forces are to control the Isthmus of Corinth, also to maintain order in Athens in case of need.

This week we have the replies of our own Government and, later, of the French to Russia's declaration of war policy. The British Government, quoting the proclamation to the Russian people, enclosed in the Russian Note, that "free Russia does not purpose to dominate other peoples or to take from them their national patrimony, or forcibly to occupy foreign territory", heartily concurs in the sentiment expressed. The Government states once more facts which agitators and ill-wishers find it convenient to suppress or distort. "They did not enter upon this war as a war of conquest, and they are not continuing it for any such object. Their purpose at the outset was to defend the existence of their country and to enforce respect for international engagements." They have now a further object, "that of liberating populations oppressed by alien tyranny", such as the Poland not only "ruled by the old Russian autocracy", but "equally that part of it within the dominion of the Germanic Empire". The phrase "within the dominion" is potent with meaning for lovers of Shakespeare. "You stand within his danger, do you not?" says Portia to Antonio concerning Shylock, and the word "danger", meaning originally "power to harm", is derived from "dominion" and

almost rescued from its obsolete sense by German ideas of occupation and Kultur.

The British Government, wishing Russia God-speed in this enterprise of freeing Poland, proclaim the necessity of seeking "for such a settlement as will secure the happiness and contentment of the peoples and take way all legitimate causes of future war". They heartily join their Russian Allies in the "acceptance and approval of the principles laid down by President Wilson in his historic message to the American Congress", and they believe that, broadly speaking, the agreements they have made from time to time with their Allies are "conformable to these standards". But they are ready, if the Russian Government so desires, "to examine, and, if need be, to revise these agreements". This expression of British policy is excellent; at once frank and cordial, it deals with essential points and is in no way dogmatic.

The reply of the French Government has the happy phrasing we expect from our Allies. It does not doubt the success of the measures announced by the Russian people to defeat an adversary who threatens their national patrimony, and thus "effectively to take their part in the common struggle of the Allies. In this way the efforts which our enemies do not cease to renew to sow misunderstandings among the Allies and to obtain credit for the most lying reports regarding their reciprocal decisions will be rendered vain".

The position of France is clearly and finely expressed:—"France thinks of oppressing no people and no nationality, not even those of her enemies of to-day, but she intends that the oppression which has so long weighed upon the world shall be finally destroyed, and that the authors of the crimes which will remain for our enemies the shame of this war shall be chastised". France looks to "the triumph of right and justice" as the only end of the war, even if this interferes (admirable touch of irony!) with "Germanic tyranny ready to weigh so heavily on peoples less advanced on the path of progress". For herself she "intends that her faithful and loyal provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, which were snatched from her in the past by violence, shall be liberated and shall return to her". She will fight with her Allies till victory for the complete restoration of territorial rights and their political and economic independencies, "as well as reparatory indemnities for the long toll of inhuman and unjustified acts of devastation". Quousque tandem? The world must be guaranteed against a repetition of incessant German outrage and provocation.

President Wilson has also sent to Russia, in view of the approaching visit of the American delegation to that country, a clear declaration of war aims which "have been very much beclouded during the past few weeks by mistaken and misleading statements". He deals firmly with German professions and German performances. "Remedies must be found as well as statements of principle that will have a pleasing and sonorous sound."

Meanwhile, Hindenburg's repeated efforts at the end of the week to secure a separate peace with Russia, first by a mission of three officers, and later by a wireless message to all the Russian troops, have been scornfully rejected. All Russians have not forgotten the Stokhod, and they know well that "the overthrow of her Allies would mean the overthrow of Russia and the end of her political liberty".

"Well done, the Sailors' and Firemen's Union, in refusing point blank to help the rascally Stockholm Congress!" is the sentiment of straight people in this country. Mr. Victor Fisher, Mr. James Seddon, and Mr. Havelock Wilson have

done a public service in rousing the country against these disgusting intrigues. As the war progresses there will be many of these traps, and they will become more and more difficult to avoid. Stockholm is the second trap, the first being the attempt to traffic with Germany last year when she held out the bait of peace. "There is no harm in hearing what they have to say" is the specious argument put forward by the artful in order to allure fools and the "war-weary" at home. What is needed to-day, and will be greatly needed in the near future, is a really strong committee of men and women here, fearless, vigilant, swift to take the field against every suspicious movement of the kind. We have numberless committees to-day, but not one that really answers this purpose. The Stockholm trick ought to have been fought from the outset; instead, it was left to chance. Had not the union of the seamen and firemen suddenly roused itself, the public might have been led away into something like a campaign of enthusiasm in favour of Stockholm.

The air raid on London on Wednesday led to a grievous loss of life. These raids with favouring weather are sure to become more numerous, and so long as the enemy can turn out enough machines, more deadly. The aeroplane is as elusive as the submarine: its minute size, and the vast height at which it flies, and the extraordinary speed which it is acquiring make it most difficult to tackle even in broad daylight. Practical aeroplanists in France have told us that they believe 150 miles an hour will yet be reached.

The Navy has scored a new kind of success this week. On Monday a drifter on patrol duty encountered and engaged five enemy seaplanes. One of these was destroyed, the pilot being rescued by another. This machine was in turn attacked and so much damaged that it sank when it was being towed into harbour. Both pilots were captured. The other three enemy machines escaped. The drifter, which is the first armed fishing vessel, so far as official records go, to meet and beat the seaplane, was commanded by Lieut. Bell-Irving, of the R.N. Volunteer Reserve.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement that the war bill has risen to nearly £8,000,000, or about double the original cost, is alarming. At this rate another year's war will add some £3,000,000,000 to a war debt of £3,500,000,000. The brain reels at such figures, which are far beyond the comprehension of the ordinary taxpayer. It looks as if we should not get out of the war—unless it ends this year—under a debt of some £7,000,000,000. The interest on which at 5 per cent. is £350,000,000. Sinking fund and pensions will certainly bring the figure up to £400,000,000, which added to our pre-war expenditure of £200,000,000, will mean the raising of an annual revenue of £600,000,000. Certes, this will mean a basic income tax of six shillings in the £ with super-tax on the top. What a sombre prospect for the next fifty years!

A discussion has been running in the "Times" as to the representation of London in the House of Commons. Before 1884 London returned twenty members, of whom four sat for the City. After that date London returned sixty-one members, of whom two sit for the City. The question is whether the old large or the new small constituencies chose the greater number of distinguished men. The truth is that under the old and the new system London, with one or two exceptions, stands discredited in its choice of representatives. Since the Reform Act of 1832 the number of distinguished men sitting for London boroughs could be counted on the fingers of two hands. Since 1885, Randolph Churchill, Goschen, Mr. Balfour and Mr. Long, four out of the sixty-one in thirty years, are the only London members in the first political rank. The rest of the metropolitan members were and are a

set of perfect nonentities. " 'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity is 'tis true."

Why is it that everything connected with politicians is tainted with insincerity? The late Lord St. Audries no doubt was everything that is amiable and respectable in his capacity of country gentleman, head of a family, and possibly administrator. But to gush about his popularity as a Whip, and to say that he was "the pink of perfection" in the lobby is to say the thing which was not. Acland Hood never answered letters, hardly ever kept an appointment, and carried on the bad tradition of never encouraging a young Tory, unless he was the son of a peer or a millionaire. His rudeness was quite proverbial, and as a Whip he had but one recommendation: he did not belong to the Kent Gang. Lord Edmund Talbot is a great improvement, for he is courteous, sensible, and businesslike.

High prices and the "profiteer" continue to attract a good deal of attention, though Parliamentary discussion is postponed till the new Food Controller has been appointed. The excessive cost of food has led to a demand for higher wages which is put forward on behalf of half a million workers and will have to be considered by the Government Committee on Production. Meanwhile the London Unionist M.P.'s have opened a campaign against "profiteering" in Hammersmith, and a small committee has been formed to investigate complaints. The Prime Minister hopes in a very short time to make proposals which will reduce substantially the cost of some of the necessities of life. This was a point in his important speech to the Commissioners appointed to investigate the causes of labour unrest whom he addressed on Tuesday at Downing Street. The inquiry is to be thorough, impartial, private, and carried through as soon as possible. The last recommendation is much to the point. How many good causes have been buried in long and lingering reports! Altogether, the Commissioners seem to have a pretty free hand, and they should discover some useful truths, even if their recommendations fail to astonish the world.

On Monday Mr. Lloyd George gave the House of Commons some details concerning the Irish Convention. Pressed from a good many quarters to make it a small body, he found that impracticable, because all interests had to be represented. Actually the Convention is to include 101 persons, from representatives of various churches to those of county councils and county boroughs. Labour is to have five representatives, and the Government reserves another five places for "recognised spokesmen of opinions not voiced by the Irish parties present in the House", and fifteen for leading Irishmen of all sections whom their countrymen would generally desire to be heard. The Government nominations will be made when the representatives of the various interests have been chosen. The Government would infinitely prefer that the Convention should select its own chairman, but was prepared to nominate one. Mr. Balfour is among the suggestions, but we can quite imagine that there is no particular eagerness to preside over such an assembly.

In order, presumably, to avenge the fall of the last Government, part of the Radical Press in London has been attacking the appointment of Lord Northcliffe with the utmost acrimony, though Mr. Bonar Law declared in the House of Commons on Wednesday that Lord Northcliffe was doing a great public service. The "Daily News" is by far the bitterest and boldest of these censors of public morals: it is quite unable to contain itself in the matter. Yet these are the people who welcomed with every sign of profuse joy the decision of the United States to bring its immense resources to the aid of the Allied cause! Cannot they see that if the savage attacks on Lord Northcliffe serve any purpose in the world it can be

but the purpose of Germany? If they succeed in discrediting the new "energiser" and business co-ordinator of this country in the United States they succeed, obviously, in damping down the enthusiasm of the American people over the war—it is impossible to wriggle out of this conclusion. They are queering the pitch of the Entente in America.

Attacks on public men more often than not, of course, aid rather than depress or damage them. Attacks are therefore frequently welcomed by the victims. Mr. Balfour, for example, who is now the darling of the papers we refer to, was formerly pelted by them with every form of abuse. We suppose that, with the possible exceptions of Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Gladstone, more poisoned arrows were shot at Mr. Balfour when he was leader than at anybody in public life during the last five-and-twenty years. So, it may be argued, there is no harm surely in accusing Lord Northcliffe of a few comparatively mild offences. But that is very specious. When Mr. Balfour's character was blackened we were not engaged in a desperate struggle for life with a most powerful enemy. Abusing Mr. Balfour did not damage the British cause with its most substantial friends and Allies abroad at a time when friendship and alliance were of vital import to the State. There is no excuse for the action of the "Daily News" in this instance: it is an exhibition of party passion.

A few weeks ago English parties, persons, and papers suddenly flung their caps in the air and cheered themselves hoarse in favour of revolution, glorious revolution. It was announced with every sign of delight that "This wins the war". Tory vied with Whig in this singular demonstration, whilst Dives, professing eternal brotherhood, dropped into the arms of Demos. Because the SATURDAY REVIEW ventured to print a very mild caveat against carrying the revolutionary zeal too far, it was fallen on savagely by an organ of the Roman Catholic Church, which called on Mr. Lloyd George to suppress it. Why the Papacy should send the SATURDAY REVIEW to the stake for mistrusting revolutions as the right means of carrying on war we cannot understand: it appears like a missing chapter in "Alice in Wonderland". Last week we again spoke a word of warning against revolution as a policy for winning the war, pointing out that those who call for revolutions are in danger of perishing by them. At the same time the President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was writing a letter on revolution which was printed in the "Times" last Monday. Mr. Case, it will be granted, thinks before he writes, and thinks rather closer than some people, even than some statesmen. We cannot here give his letter in full, only one quotation. With portions of it we agree, with other portions we disagree. But it is an important communication. We advise those who have missed it to turn to the files of the "Times", 11 June, page 10. The SATURDAY REVIEW and the President of Corpus will have to go to the stake together.

The quotation we allow ourselves is this: "This nation is in danger of drifting into revolution unprepared, like France in 1789; but it will be a revolution far more dangerous, because it has been organised beforehand by persons accustomed to the use of might against right and ready at any moment for the overthrow of the existing fabric of society". Only a few days ago a powerful active public man in England—not "a Tory" by any stretch of nomenclature—expressed to us his belief that a revolution was coming in this country. We had better be careful, in calling for revolution, that we are not hoist with our own petard. Better policy than working up revolutions is getting on with the war, which is obviously quite another matter.

LEADING ARTICLES.

THE CEASE OF MAJESTY.

THE war is not going well for kings, four of whom have already lost their lands, and two if not at present their heads at least their crowns. Quicquid delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi may be truer of the downfall of the Tsar than the world thinks politic to admit, but few tears are likely to be shed over the cease of King Constantine of Greece. He has gone with the Crown Prince, and Alexander, his second son, is to be tried in his stead. Greece is to have a kind of "crowned republic", somewhat after the fashion of Poland when Charles XII. offered the post to one candidate, gave it to another, and then hurried away to hunt the third, already holding it, out of existence. Only an attempt is to be made to keep it in the reigning family, which was not so in Poland. Let us hope it will work well and that the newcomer will forget his family in favour of his kingdom: and long may M. Venizelos reign over him! It may be difficult to appraise Constantine quite impartially to-day, the general feeling being too vehement to allow of a full true judgment in the matter, but he certainly gives a bad impression. That he played Serbia false, his Ally in the second Balkan War, admits of no doubt. It was a falsehood that Greece was not solemnly bound by a live treaty to come to the aid of the Serbians when they were set upon by Bulgaria. The clauses of the treaty, secret or not, were well known to the diplomatists of Europe when the shocking breach of them occurred: we happened to be aware of them at the time when the king denied the pledge, as we intimated. They were as clear as the agreement by which Great Britain pledged herself to preserve Belgium's neutrality. That in itself is enough to condemn the man. Had he lost his crown for that piece of cowardly shift alone he would not, we consider, have been dealt with hardly by fate. Having handed over Serbia to Bulgaria, Germany and Austria, he put himself to all manner of devices to deceive the Entente Powers. We agree he was under no like pledge to these Powers to come in on their side, but his conduct was sinister and always crooked. We have often wondered, in this connection, how much did he know about the Dardanelles plans of the Allies before these plans matured in the attack on Gallipoli? If he had knowledge of the magnitude of the Allies' intentions, what was to prevent the Kaiser from being warned, and the Kaiser in his turn from seeing to it that Gallipoli was speedily taken in hand and made impregnable? We have a suspicion that the Turks would not have armed Gallipoli in the extraordinarily efficient manner in which ultimately they did had not good advice been conveyed to them in the nick of time.

Throughout this Greek difficulty there have been two reasons why we have deprecated taking the negotiations out of the hands of Entente diplomacy and going in hammer and tongs to depose Constantine, and force Greece into the Entente, whether she would or not: and we do not repent our caution in this matter. On the contrary, the patient attitude was the right one. We believe in the most drastic methods of war against Germany, the fullest compulsory service with a complete overhauling of all exemptions and the reform of the tribunal system, effective reprisals, blockade without mercy, Government rationing and commandeering on the food danger being at all acute. But the line should be drawn distinctly at violent steps which may imperil our relations not with neutrals, but with strong Allies. Had we gone in hammer and tongs against

Greece last year, we should have imperilled our relations with Italy, a danger which we think has now passed. It is not practicable to explain here exactly why it is so, but it is so: though we may mention that the occupation of Albania has greatly changed the position. Italy is a very important, hard-striking Power. Her offensive against Austria at the present time helps enormously. The Austrian Army has been ludicrously under-rated in this country, ever since the Russians overwhelmed a portion of it long ago. We do not want it let loose for service on the Western Front, less so than ever now that we see the paralysis in the Eastern theatre of the war, and that the campaign there is near its nadir.

The second reason why we disliked the idea of perhaps another war on our hands in the Balkans, is the unprofitable nature of the "little packet" policy. Even before the submarines became so active in the Mediterranean and in the Adriatic—where they prevail because Italy has no good naval bases there at present, though she is fighting for them—little packets did not pay us. The Germans style them British internment camps, in which there is a measure of grim truth. Germany can only be broken in the West, where she is infinitely more dangerous to France and to Great Britain than anywhere else on earth. Concentration on the Western Front against Germany is the one way of coming out of this war alive. Impatient people who have not studied the Western Front and considered what it means—who have not grasped the fact that Belgium is the chief objective always of Germany—decline to perceive this. After every offensive in the West, after every engagement there, they drop back into their complaint about its being too slow, about the apparent hopelessness of our ever obtaining a decision there. They are always desiderating something novel and brainy—as if Messines and Vimy Ridge and Arras, and as if Thiepval and Beaumont Hamel were not novel and brainy! The little packet policy must always tend to suck up divisions which it is anything but brainy to draw off from a front where the Germans have something like three million men to-day—for all their casualties are not all dead men or totally disabled—and where, presently, we cannot disguise from ourselves, they may have some further additions from the East. The German ambitions south-east, their bold, imaginative Hamburg to Bagdad designs, are not to be overlooked. These were probably one strong motive of the war. But the great pressing danger is in the West. The Kaiser and the German High Command are far more set on Belgium than on Bagdad now: they full well know that it is Antwerp with the Belgian coast which is the real pistol at England's head to-day. We grudge every Entente battalion spared from French or Belgian soil. Concentration in the West is the best and most long-sighted military view.

MESSINES.

THE operations which won the ridge of Messines were unique in the history of war, and we are glad that Sir Douglas Haig has departed from his custom of soldierly reticence in order to explain the full significance of the victory. His message to the Second Army, so admirable for its lucid statement, its moderate and reasoned claims, its tribute to the bravery of a beaten foe, and its serene confidence, is the best and most authoritative comment on the war position to-day. The significance of Messines, as Sir Douglas tells us, is that neither the natural strength of a defensive position organised by nearly three years' incessant labour nor the knowledge that an attack is

coming can save the enemy from complete defeat in any area chosen by us for one of those hammer blows which, now that we have gained the initiative, we can prepare, with all the superior technical resources at our disposal, against any part of his line. We can learn from the Field-Marshal's message what the offensive really means in modern war when vast armies face one another in strongly prepared positions. It does not mean any considerable geographical advance, any breaking through, or getting the enemy on the run. It means rather a succession of hammer blows, which may be specially useful because they enable strategical positions to be wrested from the enemy, but which aim chiefly at breaking up his fighting line, exhausting his reserves, and reducing his moral. We saw these blows and their effect on the Somme last year, we have seen them at Vimy and near Arras this year, and Messines is likely to be regarded in the future as the classical example. "Brave and tenacious as the German troops are, it is only a question of how much longer they can endure the repetition of such blows." When Sir Douglas Haig, who has never once made an exaggerated claim, publishes a sentence like that, we are justified in believing that he sees his way to the end. If he is sufficiently supplied with men and munitions he will rain on the Germans such a succession of blows that they will be compelled to cry "Enough!"

Every British claim about Messines is corroborated by captured German documents. The most significant of these is the Corps Order, date 1 June, and signed "von Laffert", which defined the coming English attack. We learn from this Order that the German Staff attached the greatest importance to the strong points which dominate the Wytshaete salient. "These must not fall, even temporarily, into the enemy's hands." The Second Army has permanently secured them. Not only were the reserves of the divisions in line available, but "the troops must be told that we have very strong battle reserves close behind the front which are destined to throw back any enemy who may have temporarily broken through in one great counter-attack, should the battle reserves of the divisions not already have done so". We see that the Germans had made their customary prudent preparations on a greater scale than usual, and that they thought the ridge so important that they had provided a double reserve. Part of this second reserve was the 3rd Bavarian division, which created a record by coming in, being thoroughly beaten, and going out within twenty-four hours. But what happened to the "one great counter-attack"? There was a most unusual delay in delivering it. The ridge was won on Wednesday and the counter-attack was not delivered till Friday evening. It was made in strong force by fresh troops, who attacked persistently and courageously, but General Plumer had got his guns well forward, and in a battle of five hours he did not lose a yard of ground. That second victory was as important as the first; the German losses were severe, and Sir Herbert Plumer completed and secured his gains and rounded off his admirably conceived and marvellously executed scheme. There was, in fact, an artistic finish about the whole operation which speaks volumes for the Staff which arranged and the Army which carried out the ambitious plan.

We have quoted German evidence as to the large reserves provided and used up, and there is abundant proof that the long artillery pounding and the vast explosion of mines seriously affected the German moral. How could it be otherwise? The world has never known anything so destructive and unendurable as a modern British artillery bombardment. In old days the Kaiser had the motto "Ultima ratio regis" carved on his big guns, but the last word in argument has now passed to the enemy whom he challenged. His soldiers have to lie exposed to gunfire such as did not enter into the dreams even of the German Staff before the war. They pass through an agony which evokes pity from the men they are fighting against,

and that agony must be intensified as we gain post after post that improves our observation facilities. "We cannot compete with the English", says one German soldier. "There will soon be no way of escape for us", writes another. "The English smash everything with their artillery, and we have frightful losses." When there followed on this experience of the guns the biggest mine explosions of the war human nerves could not be expected to stand the strain. The prospect of similar happenings in future fights must influence even the stubborn German courage. We must not, however, expect any rapid breakdown; there is not the least chance of it; we saw their moral fall low in the great battles of the Somme, but Hindenburg's reorganisation and the winter rest restored the old standard. It is falling again now, and before the end of the summer will, we trust, be lower than it is to-day. In this stage of the war, the period of hammer blows, everything depends on the thoroughness of preparation, as one heavy and crushing blow like Vimy or Messines seems to have a greater effect than a succession of smaller successes. On the other hand, the periods of waiting between the great thrusts does give the enemy an interval for recuperation, and prevents the rapid spread of that despair which inevitably conquers the men who have to endure intensive bombardment.

In another way the battle of Messines must affect the future of the war. We know what efforts the German Staff put forth to stimulate the resistance of their men and what guarantees they gave that their ample additional reserves would enable them to hold the ridge and overcome the British attack. When such assurances as these are given and the fighting results prove them to be untrustworthy there must follow in the German soldier a weakening of faith, a loss of confidence in the competence of his generals which may lead to considerable results. The German leaders, political and military, have a marvellous genius for hypnotising their people, but events like Messines are sometimes startlingly awakening. "I cannot imagine where the English get their ammunition", wrote one German, who had probably been sedulously taught by authority that the submarines were cutting off all supplies from our Army. Anything which causes the elaborate structure of German authoritarianism to crack and sway is of the greatest value, and the Second Army, in disproving the official guarantees of the German Staff, has done most valuable work. On the other hand, the confidence of our men in their leaders is made stronger than ever by the completeness of this victory and the accurate timing and accomplishment of all its elaborate programme.

The crowning mercy of this great fight is that our casualties were "astonishingly light". In our gratitude for the technical skill which has enabled England to set in the field an Army so lavishly provided, and to prepare such a mechanical blow as the great explosion, we must not forget that these things are of little value without the dash and courage of the infantry, the glorious daring of the airmen, and the skill and endurance of the sappers and gunners. We have cause for gratitude that the inevitable toll of our best men has been relatively small. Many heroes have fallen, and the death of one, Major Redmond, has called forth admiration and deep sympathy throughout the Empire. Those of us who disagreed with the politician pay the sincerest tribute to the chivalry of the man. This battle is one more proof of Sir Douglas Haig's military genius; it throws light on his whole careful and skilful plan, and it proves that he has secured for his Army the master power in the West. When we recall, with anger, the malicious criticisms that have sometimes been directed against our High Command we rejoice in the complete demonstration which Vimy and Messines have given of the high qualities that have won for Sir Douglas Haig the implicit confidence of the superb force which he commands. Sir Herbert Plumer and the Second Army

have had to wait long for their chance, but they have grasped occasion by the hand to some purpose. They have won a success which will be an epoch in the war, and they have gained for themselves a permanent name in history and the perpetual gratitude of the whole Empire.

REVOLUTION WHILE YOU WAIT.

THE Representation of the People Bill now careering through the House of Commons proposes far greater changes in our politics and our manners than the Reform Act of 1832. Indeed, we doubt whether there has been so great a revolution since the days when the Whig aristocracy decided to exchange an hereditary for a Parliamentary king. The Bill will raise the number of electors from 8,000,000 to a figure which is put at the lowest at 16,000,000 and at the highest at 22,000,000. This monster constituency is to include soldiers, sailors, and women. The First Reading was carried under "the ten-minutes rule". The Second Reading occupied a certain portion of two Parliamentary sittings, and the report of the speeches filled three columns of the "Times". The clauses of the Bill are now being run through Committee. Except those actually in prison or in a lunatic asylum, we have not succeeded in discovering what adult persons are to be excluded from the franchise. And in these days of compulsory primary education, what mental or moral difference is there between an occupier and a resident? It never seems to occur to the revolutionary Speaker or his accomplices that the enfranchisement of masses of the people may reproduce in this country the anarchy which now shocks us in Russia. It is useless to complain of the haste with which this revolution has been thrust down the throat of Parliament, because the thing is done. The explanation or defence of this "revolution while you wait" is that those responsible for the Government dread an outburst of anarchical forces from certain quarters of the industrial world. Russia, to whom we sent "fraternal greeting" in such a hurry, has set a dangerous example to anarchists all the world over. Without the knowledge at the disposal of Scotland Yard, the Labour Ministry, the Board of Trade, and the various Committees interfering with labour, it would be presumptuous on our part to deny or ridicule the existence of the danger. But to create eight or ten millions of new voters to counteract what can be at the highest a conjectural peril is "a gamble". May it prove less disastrous than the gamble of Gallipoli! By the small majority of eight the House of Commons decided on Tuesday night not to allow the experiment of proportional representation to be tried on the vile body of the new electorate. If by proportional representation be meant the single transferable vote in monster constituencies with three, four, or five members, the House of Commons acted wisely. Such a system means the submission of some nine or twelve candidates to the electors, and, as a consequence, the party list, the greatest of evils. It is significant that neither Australia nor Canada has adopted proportional representation, and that in France "scrutin de liste" has produced the deplorable result of conferring something like absolute power on bureaucracy. Men who think and write and talk about politics make the mistake of "over-intellectualising" what is really a coarse business. The "highbrows" cannot imagine or will not recognise the childishness and indifference of the average elector. To place a cross against one out of two or three names is the utmost intellectual effort that can be demanded of the mass of voters. The Attorney-General warned us, in somewhat pompous language, that "to rule out the scheme of proportional representation would be to strike a death-blow at the whole superstructure of the great concordat". The great concordat! We have heard too much of this language. Is Speaker Lowther a Pope that we must swallow his Bulls, not to speak of his Samuels?

Flattery has turned his head, for we hear that he is incensed at the bare criticism of his decrees. The truth is that the Speaker's Conference was a Committee of thirty-one members of the two Houses of Parliament, with not a single statesman amongst them, who had no more authority to settle a revolution than any other thirty-one members picked at random.

The great question of the admission of women to the Parliamentary franchise is still in the balance. Nothing would surprise us less than its rejection, and with it we presume would really go "the whole superstructure of the great concordat". Such an issue would not leave us inconsolable, for we retain the old-fashioned notion of government, that the forces of anarchy must be suppressed by the military power. We have not changed our opinion that 90 per cent. of the women whom it is proposed to enfranchise are incompetent to form an opinion on 90 per cent. of the issues that must be submitted to them. But on the question of safety we believe that the vast majority of women will be on the side of law and order, and an effective national defence. And that is much—very much. The war has altered the arguments against the female suffrage by the fact that women have now a definite and important position in the industrial system. Without votes in their hands it is to be feared that the women would be turned out of their posts neck and crop by the men. The attempt will certainly be made, votes or no votes; and nothing is more puzzling than the support of women's votes by the trade unions. Perhaps that support will be withdrawn at the eleventh hour. Despite of the great concordat and the Papal house of Lowther, the Bill is still on the razor-edge of rejection.

THE GREAT WAR.

APPRECIATION (NO. 150) BY BRIGADIER-GENERAL F. G. STONE, C.M.G.

THE CONQUEST OF THE MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE RIDGE.

THE Messines-Wytschaete Ridge, which for over two and a half years has dominated our positions in the Ypres salient, was stormed by our troops this morning" (General Headquarters in France, 9.50 p.m., 7 June).

The tremendous significance of this news was probably appreciated by those who read it in a degree which corresponded more or less directly with the intimacy of their acquaintance with the tragic history of the Ypres salient, which has borne an evil repute for "unhealthiness" from November 1914 up to the present month of 1917. To those who fought on this part of the field in the first battle of Ypres, where the tide of the German flood was stayed in its devouring rush on the Channel ports, this news meant a great deal; but to those who had subsequently to hold on to Ypres salient with all their comings and goings under easy observation from this commanding ridge to those who took part in the second battle of Ypres, when the Germans made the great gas attack of May 1915 which so nearly achieved the success our little Army had previously denied them, and to those who through the two weary years which followed, when every month saw its toll of casualties with so little gain to balance on the credit side, took their turn in holding this ill-omened salient, the news meant something indescribably more than it did to anyone else. For two and a half years our much-enduring troops had been compelled to live and fight and die in a flat plate of mud, the rim of which, from sixty to a hundred feet above, was impregnably occupied by the enemy. It was generally believed that the maintenance of our position in the salient, which seemed to be tactically indefensible, was due to political considerations of the first importance, but at times the burden of the sacrifices entailed seemed well-nigh intolerable.

"He riding on the wall."

And now, within a week of the Kaiser's announcement to his troops that the British offensive had come to an end from exhaustion, the impregnable position which has for so long overshadowed the existence of our troops in the salient has been stormed after a fashion which leaves no doubt in our minds as to the capacity of our Armies, under the supreme command of Sir Douglas Haig, to achieve anything which may be set them to do. Sir Douglas Haig's dispatch of the 8th inst. is unusually full. It dispels at once any idea of a surprise, which was clearly impossible under the conditions which prevailed. These "enabled the enemy to overlook all our preparations for attack, and he had moved up reinforcements to meet us. The battle therefore became a gauge of the ability of German troops to stop our advance under conditions as favourable to them as an army can ever hope for, with every advantage of ground and preparation, and with the knowledge that attack was impending". These are no words of bombast uttered by an untried man in the exhilaration of a first success, but the well-weighed opinion of an experienced soldier who has led his Armies to victory first in one part of the field and then in another, and won their whole-hearted confidence, from general to private, in the measures which he adopts to make the victory sure. Who would not serve gladly in such an Army, and who shall measure the depth of ignominy to which those men have fallen who could and would not?

After describing briefly the formidable character of the enemy defences the Field-Marshal concludes: "No precaution was omitted that could be provided by the incessant labour of years, guided by the experience gained by the enemy in previous defeats on the Somme, at Arras, and on the Vimy Ridge".

The first assault and subsequent attacks were carried out in almost exact accordance with the time table arranged. This disposes of the German contention that our attack was "arrested", which is their way of keeping up the delusion among their own people that every attack which we make is made with the object of "breaking through", and enables them to claim a victory after they have been thoroughly thrashed.

At 3.10 a.m. nineteen deep mines were exploded simultaneously beneath the enemy's defences, thus wrecking a considerable portion of the front and support trenches. Immediately after the explosion our guns opened fire and the infantry assault was launched. Within three hours the entire crest line was stormed from south to north, soon after which the village of Messines was captured, and before midday, after hard fighting, the village of Wytschaete fell into our hands.

This ended the first stage of the fighting. In the second stage our troops pushed down the eastern slopes against a powerful line of rear defences which lay on the chord of the arc formed by the salient in which Wytschaete lies near the blunt nose, and Holbeke and Messines lie near and to the west of the north and south ends of the base respectively.

At 3.45 p.m. the village of Oostaverne, a little to the west of the centre of the rear line, was captured after hard fighting for a series of fortified woods and strong points. By nightfall practically the whole of the trench system was in our hands and we had gained the whole of the day's objectives.

Where every branch of the service distinguished itself so greatly, and is praised with equal warmth by the Commander-in-Chief, and certainly with equal sincerity, it may nevertheless be not considered invidious if attention is drawn to the remarkably fine work of the Royal Flying Corps during the first six days of June. The flying men under General Plumer's command during this period destroyed twenty-four hostile aeroplanes and drove down twenty-three more out of control with a loss to our side of only ten machines. In the words of the "Times" correspondent, they "waged a fierce and brilliantly successful war on the enemy machines". What this means to the other branches of the service engaged

in such a battle can best be appreciated by those who have had to fight under the respective conditions of air inferiority and air superiority—it means almost everything. Assuming that the other arms are anything like equally matched, it means adding 50 per cent. to the value of our artillery fire and depriving the enemy by 50 per cent. of the value of his. Sir Douglas Haig's dispatch concludes with the announcement that "Over 6,400 prisoners, including 132 officers, have passed through the collecting stations to date. . . . More than twenty guns are reported, so far, as having been collected".

This brilliant success must have brought up the total of German prisoners on the Franco-British front since 16 April to well over 60,000, including nearly 1,200 officers and about 470 guns.

But perhaps the most satisfactory feature of all was that the tremendous counter-attacks launched by the Germans on the evening of the 8th inst. over a front of six miles, from St. Yves to north of the Ypres-Comines canal, by fresh divisions, and pressed with the greatest determination, were completely repulsed at all points, and finally broke down completely with heavy losses about midnight. We retained "the whole of the ground won by us since the beginning of the battle".

Simultaneously with this further success in the Ypres-Messines region we gained a complete success further south on a wide front from south of Lens to La Bassée.

Before the Arras offensive it seemed most probable that Hindenburg would use his strategic reserve to attack our line in great force somewhere between Lille and Ypres. If this was the case his plan was, at all events temporarily, upset by Sir Douglas Haig's successful offensive, which began with the capture of the Vimy Ridge. Subsequently a very large number of divisions have arrived from the Eastern front, and it seems possible that the idea of a determined attempt to defeat us in Flanders and seize the Channel ports may again have found favour with the German High Command. If so, the recent achievement of General Plumer's Army must have caused the bitterest disappointment to our enemy, who, with his strong counter-attacks thrown back all along the line from Ypres to Moronvillers, and casualties mounting up so fast that they threaten to swallow up the reserves set free by Russia's present quiescence, has apparently little to hope for except to relinquish finally all pretence to the strategic initiative which he claimed as his own by right of his retirement on the Ancre.

At a moment when the third battle of Ypres has added imperishable laurels to the escutcheons of the Empire's fighting units, which have been called into existence since the war began and have so splendidly responded to and far exceeded the sanguine expectations of those who have helped to fashion them for the great ordeal, it is not amiss to pay a tribute to those gallant men who have gone before and who at the first battle of Ypres, against fearful odds, saved the world from the incalculable results of a German victory "according to plan". The epitaph of these men has been written by Lord Ernest Hamilton in words which will never die: "The grandeur of the doings of those first seven divisions lies, it may well be, in their immunity from the play of a cheap flashlight—a flashlight which too often distorts the perspective and so illuminates the wrong spot. There is a gospel in the very reticence of the records of the regiments concerned—in the dignity with which, without any blare of trumpets, they tell of the daily answer to the call of a duty which balanced them ceaselessly on the edge of eternity". They have mostly gone from among us, leaving behind them a glorious tradition which is being nobly followed. May God rest their souls!

MIDDLE ARTICLES.

IRISH IMPRESSIONS.

BY SIR LEES KNOWLES.

ABOUT a year ago the SATURDAY REVIEW published a letter which I wrote telling my experiences during the rebellion in Ireland. I have recently returned from that country and the SATURDAY REVIEW readers may like to have the following observations upon my new impressions there:

During my recent visit I came to the conclusion that there is no improvement in the tone of the people—in fact, I think it is worse than it was a year ago. The country is seething with unrest, and the recent victory of the Sinn Fein candidate over the Nationalist candidate in the Parliamentary election at South Longford has added fuel to the flames. A year ago I saw the smouldering ruins of Sackville Street, and the site now stands as a miserable monument to disloyalty in the heart of Dublin. The Irish Convention is regarded by the people of Ireland as a clever trick of England and the Government of the day, a harmless experiment which is likely only to shatter the reputation of its Chairman.

I have seen the Sinn Fein flag flying on telegraph posts and elsewhere, and I have seen for sale in shop windows the stamps struck by the Sinn Fein Republic.

On the West and South coasts the seafaring population, however, is being somewhat shaken. Boats damaged by the Germans, derelicts and shipwrecked crews are seen by them. One Danish timber-ship came into port riddled with shells. It had been abandoned, but its timber cargo kept it afloat. Three of its crew, including the captain, were killed, three injured, and three saved.

Then, too, I have seen dark sailors landed, probably members of an American crew. Such sights must make the people think.

It is a great pity that some form of conscription should not have been introduced immediately after the rebellion, for although it can be boasted that there are something like seventeen Irish regiments, one would like to know their composition and how many born Irishmen they contain. One sees in Ireland hefty youths in all directions, the corner-boys of old, and it seems a pity that good use should not be made of these young men. If you ask one of them the ordinary question, "What are you doing?" you almost invariably receive the ordinary answer, "Nothing, sir". They will not cross to Great Britain to obtain work if they can help it. All over the city one sees advertisements, to which little or no response is made, such as the following:

"Wanted, for immediate employment in Somerset and other districts, countrymen for felling, trimming, hauling, and converting home-grown timber; 8d. per hour, 54 hours per week guaranteed. Free hutting. Employer will pay fare to the job and provide free return-ticket if the workman stays not less than six months."

"Wanted, 500 labourers for Avonmouth; 8½d. per hour and 3s. war bonus; fare paid."

One hears continually complaints of the way in which England has treated Ireland with regard to munition factories, and it is quite useless to point out that there is a difficulty in the shipment of coal, and that also the material sent over and returned as the finished article runs the risk of a double sea-passage, with the delay of a long railway journey. But, as I have said, although there is plenty of well-paid work waiting Irishmen, they will not cross the water, and the chief reason is that by crossing it they will be helping England.

Then, too, amongst all these advertisements one sees printed an urgent appeal at the churches and chapels to raise a hundred thousand pounds for a mission to China, this at a time when we are at war, the country in want of money, and China sending round the world to find a suitable national religion.

I asked a prominent Irishman why more of the young men of the country were not in the Army, and his

reply was that they could not be taken from the land without serious loss to the crops, especially in view of the largely increased tillage. At the same time, this man was most bitter in his complaint of the lack of munition factories in Ireland, which would give employment to hundreds of the young men. In other words, he stated that the young men of Ireland could be spared from the agriculture of the country to make munitions in Ireland, but not to fight.

The tone of the country has been well illustrated recently by the disgraceful attack on Captain Stephen Gwynn, M.P. for Galway. Captain Gwynn has shown gallantry in the trenches and he has obtained concessions for the tenant-farmers of the county of Galway by which he has gained the esteem and respect of the citizens, and yet, when on Sunday, 3 June, he went to address a meeting at the small Sinn Fein village of Castlegar, near Galway, he was met with sticks and stones and severely handled. He is a Nationalist Member of Parliament, and his only fault is that he has placed Imperial before local interests.

With regard to food, there seems to be a superabundance of it in Ireland. There have been enormous catches of fish on the Connemara coast during the month of May, and hundreds of tons of most valuable food have been wasted owing to the impossibility of sending the fish to large markets, and yet it has been impossible to buy a mackerel in the town of Galway for less than fourpence. Here is no example of the "wicked English" stepping in to steal the food of the poor Irish; but it is a deliberate and, I regret to say, a successful attempt to keep up the price of an article which remains in abundance even when all outside demands are satisfied. At Clifden, where trucks of fish made travelling by train anything but pleasant, I was told that wasted fish had been thrown on the land for manure.

This year has been a particularly good one as regards the catch of salmon. I have noticed among other catches which have surprised me those in the Liffey at Dublin and in the Dee at Chester. Consequently, special attention has been turned to the rivers, and, as an illustration, I would quote that at a recent meeting of the Galway Urban District Council, a resolution was passed calling upon the Food Controller to take over the fisheries, and reference was made to the thousands of salmon that go down to the sea and are lost. To the outsider this may sound not unreasonable. With regard, however, to the salmon which go down to the sea, they are not lost, for they go down in a condition absolutely unfit for human food. They treble their weight in the salt water, and 90 per cent. of them return to the rivers. No damage is done by legitimate fishing at the mouth of a river. The King's Gap, which is 20 feet 9 inches wide in the middle of the stream, is by law always open. All nets, gates, and other obstructions are removed every Saturday and Sunday, and during the close season, which lasts many weeks, all obstacles are removed. It is the indiscriminate slaughter of salmon in the upper waters which does incalculable harm, and the poaching of salmon should be firmly put down. The fish while in the spawning-beds are feeble from their exertions and they fall an easy prey. There is a growing animosity in Ireland towards anglers, and particularly because, as a rule, they are English. In times gone by I remember the word "Sassenach" being hissed out in bitter hatred. The complaint is that these anglers take the salmon which ought to be the food of the poor. As a matter of fact, an angler takes a very small proportion of his catch, and it is probably far within the mark to say that every fish brought to the river's bank will cost the angler at least a sovereign, which is money spent in Ireland. It may be, too, that he has to pay his fare, his hotel bill, and his fisherman, and probably he will buy his tackle and bait upon the spot, and in many other ways spend money which is of advantage to the people living near the river.

If the "thousands of salmon", to which reference was made at the meeting to which I have alluded, now

in Lough Corrib were all taken, then there would be an end of the fishing industry, so far as Galway is concerned. In this connection it may be of interest to quote the remarks of Mr. J. Arthur Hutton in his excellent work on "Salmon Scales", published by Sherratt and Hughes, London and Manchester. On page 5 he writes, "One has only to cross the water to Ireland to see how much a country can lose by neglecting what might be a valuable industry. There are no finer rivers, no better spawning-grounds in any part of the world than are to be found in that country. As far as natural advantages are concerned there are no reasons why the hundreds of thousands of pounds which sportsmen annually spend in Norway should not be disbursed in Ireland. A valuable industry, providing work for thousands, might be created if only Irish rivers contained sufficient stock of fish to annually replenish their now fast emptying waters. Owing to drift-nets in the sea, reckless destruction of spawning fish in the upper waters, and other causes, there are now very few salmon rivers in Ireland which will afford sport to the angler or repay the expense of netting". He adds, "It has been estimated that upwards of two hundred thousand pounds are annually spent in Norway by British sportsmen".

There is a general impression that if the Government took over the salmon fisheries there would be an abundance of salmon for the people around the rivers at a nominal price; but surely present owners of the fisheries can be trusted to get every pound of fish out of the rivers consistent with the keeping up of the stock. When has the action of a Government tended towards the reduction of the price of an article? Perhaps Government control with a large number of officials, which would add to the cost of the salmon to the consumer, would reduce the illegal killing of the fish in the country rivers and in the spawning-beds; but such a reduction is the last thing which agitators desire.

With regard to the food in Ireland, I never found any lack, although at the leading hotel in Dublin the Food Controller's orders were most rigidly observed. There, visitors were given potatoes but once a week, and as substitutes expensive imports, such as macaroni, rice, etc.; but rice without sugar or jam is somewhat tasteless, and I heard that, in consequence, much of it was wasted behind the scenes. With regard to any want of sugar, this was caused not by lack of the article but by a difficulty in its carriage on account of a workmen's strike. One curious fact is that oatmeal porridge is unpopular; even the children in Ireland dislike it. Bacon and potatoes seem to be the staple food of the people. As an illustration of the condition of the provisions in Dublin I give the following extracts from the market reports of the "Irish Times" of Saturday, 2 June:

"Dublin Fish.—Our fish supply was rather on the smaller side of yesterday, except salmon, of which there was about fifty packages forward, and all sold satisfactorily".

"Dublin Potato.—Of potatoes in Dublin there is now a superabundance and a wretchedly poor sale. This state of things seems to exist also in other leading Irish districts. Holders, however, continue to ask previous prices in the hopes that the Government will remove the restrictions and allow the superfluous stocks of potatoes on hand to be exported and sent just where they are badly required".

"Dublin Vegetable.—There was a very heavy supply of all classes of seasonable stuff from both farmers and gardeners on market this morning, and prices for everything under the more liberal supplies were on the easier side of recent currencies. Rhubarb can be bought at great bulk for small money, and was difficult to clear."

I trust that these observations may be of interest to you and to some of your readers. As I have suggested, I consider that the feeling in Ireland is worse than it was twelve months ago. The feeling of the people seems to be that the Government is in their

hands like the clay of the potter. For instance, in the "Daily Mirror" of 7 June is this paragraph:

"A friend in Dublin sends me news of the racing situation in Ireland. 'Instead of there being consternation when the edict of the Government was published cancelling Irish fixtures for a month, there was not even concern. "We shall race all right", said an official, quietly. "You will see." And so it has panned out'".

Convention or no Convention, my opinion is that the only solution of our difficulties is to govern firmly and justly the Irish people on the same lines as the peoples of England, Scotland, and Wales, to which they are bound by Imperial ties.

MR. STEER'S NEW MANNER.

By C. H. COLLINS BAKER.

HOW interesting will be the theories and analysis with which future experts will explain Mr. Wilson Steer's latest manner. I can imagine that the coincidence of his "Bridgnorth" (101 at the New English Art Club, in Suffolk Street) with the Great War will furnish his biographers with many fruity passages. They will see psychological cause and effect; they will conjure up visions of the master brooding over the world's travail and projecting on to canvas the solemn splendour, the murky and funèbre grandeur of his mood. We cannot indulge ourselves like this; all we can afford, with space and paper where they are, is to note a most significant development, or, rather, fresh orientation in this master's outlook, and play chorus to his meaning according to our lights.

All his life Mr. Steer has been performing in a high key: if not the very highest, as the most modern pitch goes, at least as high as seemed to him compatible with truth. We need only look at his watercolour, "Painswick Beacon" (179), to realise that long practice has given him a mastery of crystal-clear lighting beside which other efforts look tame and laboured. Nor, I suppose, can many pictures compare with his perfect and apparently effortless expression of glowing light and air in the "Portrait Sketch" (102) hanging next the "Bridgnorth". Of this sketch one feels that it bloomed upon the canvas of its own power; it flowered there unforced by alien aids, untouched by rules. The painter laid down his brush before the first surge of his emotion had spent itself, and luckily did not pick it up again to administer second thoughts or reasoned amendments. At first sight the "Bridgnorth" seems studied in comparison; a strange reversal of mental processes is needed before we are in a fit condition to analyse it. For we undergo from it the sort of shock that the critics of 1848 experienced when they found the Pre-Raphaelites loose upon the world. This shock is caused by startling change of key; but whereas the victims of 1848 were suddenly asked to switch their minds off the habitual brown key of old masters, we have to rid our minds of a key pitched in the brilliant whites and greens of modern movements.

Why has Mr. Steer deliberately set his piece in the low key of the Venetians, as we at present see them? Probably because he has found the present suitable for reviewing recent tendencies and for balancing his prospects. Pigment, he will have discovered long ago, is not the source of light; strive as one may, the race to rival light with earths and juices is futile, though for a time the scale can be forced up by this device and that. Perhaps Mr. Steer had caught a tinny note as the top of the keyboard was approached, a thin and tinkling timbre, which, though relatively high, seemed positively ineffectual. Looking round at the results of this performance in the treble, he may have asked himself whether by pursuing an elusive altitude painters have not sacrificed much of the actual resources yielded by the said earths and juices—the resources, in short, of colour. And the question, I surmise, that next occurred to him was which sacrifice is, in the long run, more profitable: the renunciation of high key or of sonorous colour.

His "Bridgnorth" may be taken as a serious effort to reach a conclusion. The requirements of colour as pure and powerful as that which Mr. Steer had in view necessitated that his scale should be lowered several octaves if at the same time truth of relation were to be retained. In other words, the pitch of his palette should not be conditioned by flake white but by, say, pure ultramarine. If within this deliberately lowered scale he could express as much of his consciousness of Nature's real significance and important verities as he desired; if he could get in, in this octave, not only as many of the essential truths and wonders as seemed to matter, but also a richer pictorial mode of expression than had been possible in the higher scale, then, perhaps, new vistas might be opened. The point to be determined is pragmatical: which scale, the high and dangerously chalky, or the deep and relatively dark, really works best for pictorial functions and conditions. Attempting to reach some conclusion as regards this "Bridgnorth", we must concede at once that without his years of so-called realism and research Mr. Steer could never have produced this picture. For, be its key as low as that of tapestry and its denial of "realism" as firm as you please, yet it expresses an incommunicable apprehension of deep truths and mysteries. This quite apart from the passionate beauty of its colour, which makes every other picture in the place seem obvious or inexperienced, crude or limited. If, then, we are capable of recognising that, given consistency, design, and livingness, one key is as true as another, since all are necessarily compromise, we shall be able to "cut out" the question of octave and adapt our intelligence to Mr. Steer's sudden demand upon it. And the question for us also is which succeeds better, the high or the low pitched statement; which gives us more, all round?

From the decorative and the emotional point of view "Bridgnorth" is one of Mr. Steer's finest works. What he has sacrificed in brightness he has amply made up in colour and intensity of feeling. I suppose that, like most pictures, it is seen to the least advantage in the New English exhibition. But imagine it in a human room. Pure colour is naturally more emotional than colour diluted with white; intensity of expression would therefore be expected in this scheme of painting. But what is revealing is the subtlety of perception, the indefinable intuition that haunts this picture; so that, gaining a moment to shed prejudices about high key, one finds oneself initiated into the secret and fugitive mysteries of Nature—sudden gleams of sunlight passionately dying far off on the shadowed plain, or slowly burning out, leaving us a throbbing consciousness of irrevocable loss. The conclusion to which one tends is that a master can express himself in any key. But he, of course, has exceptional advantages of mind and knowledge, perceiving and expressing wonderful things. Without this mind in control every key is in danger of seeming little more than words without thoughts. But if we fairly pit "Bridgnorth" not against a piece by Mr. Connard, for example, but against one of Mr. Steer's best pictures in his highest pitch, we shall recognise, I think, that the advantage lies with "Bridgnorth". For it is not only grander in decorative colour value, but also richer in emotional expression. There is in it an impassioned depth that touches qualities and truths which are necessarily impossible in the shallower realism of high pitch. This is almost a platitude. But what Mr. Steer has done in this his latest phase is to breathe into the old Venetian formula a new life and an incomparably fuller perception.

DRUMONT AND ANTI-SEMITISM.

By ERNEST DIMNET.

THE famous Edouard Drumont died recently. It is impossible not to call him the famous Drumont, because for a time the whole world knew his name, and because his influence must arrest every

student interested in the development of French history between the war of 1870 and the war of 1914, but Drumont was not famous any more. He had not enough genius to lead the movement which he had started, and while his lineal successors, Barrès, Maurras, and Léon Daudet, were coming more and more to the front, Drumont quietly relapsed into the obscurity from which he had emerged in 1886.

Drumont at this time was forty-two. He was a writer on the "Liberté", apparently more interested in literature, picturesque history, or the chronicling of modern manners than in politics proper, and I remember people who long after the publication of "La France Juive" would still refer to Drumont as the author of "Mon Vieux Paris", so deep their impression was that this writer was, above all, an artistic antiquarian. But while studying the history of mediæval Paris, Drumont had—as naturally he must—met the Jews on his way, and this apparently trivial circumstance shunted him on to the line of inquiry which was to result in the publication of "La France Juive".

The two volumes came out in 1886. They embodied the results of patient investigations into the history of all the financial establishments managed or controlled by Jews, and into the gradual interpenetration of French politics with the Jewish finance through the Press, and of Jewish influence with French society through the Hebrew heiresses. The book was tense and passionate, full of contempt and denunciations, and its background was the admixture of corruption, materialism, vanity, and cravenness in modern Paris which, till the end of the nineteenth century, was to haunt imaginations, and used to be referred to as *fin de siècle* morality.

"La France Juive" had been out several months without being much noticed, and the publisher was growing anxious, when an article of Magnard's, in the "Figaro", roused the public. Parisian readers heard with delight that two large volumes were filled with an inexhaustible fund of scandal concerning people whom they met every day and regarded always with curiosity, sometimes with envy. As for the rest of the country, it was in that mood in which, in default of strong impulses rising from clear ideas, people are disgusted with their own time and ready to proclaim it the lowest epoch in history. Drumont's volumes, which gave them chapter and verse for a great deal they only vaguely knew by hearsay, or even merely imagined, delighted them. It was convenient to find a key to most contemporary events in the collusion of bankers with deputies. During some fifteen years Drumont was the most widely read political writer, and I vainly tax my memory to remember one who provided more people with their intellectual guidance. Even Rochefort did not come near him. It must be confessed that the Wilson and Panama scandals, which were revealed in the years immediately following the publication of "La France Juive", came as a formidable confirmation of the main position of the book, and another affair was soon to arise, which in its first phase seemed to be the triumph of Drumont's doctrine: I mean, of course, the Dreyfus Affair.

The intention underlying the composition of "La France Juive" was not merely to point out the stupidity of a nation letting itself be exploited by powerful financial syndicates. There was a companion idea which, although less continuously insisted upon, was sure, however, to grow as clear to the mind: this was the danger for a nation to be in the hands of foreign controllers. For who were those bankers whose money and initiative were at the root of all the economic and political life of France? Jews. But what were the Jews? It seems incredible to-day that the answer towards 1885 was sure to be: people practising the Jewish religion, and not people of Oriental descent settled in various parts of Europe. The notion of nationality or race which, largely owing to Drumont, though soon helped by Gobineau and his German commentators, was to force itself on all minds in less than two decades, was then almost obliterated,

and the progress of Internationalism was rapidly sealing its fate. The revelation was the more startling.

To Drumont, therefore, must be traced a movement which is intellectual in the writers on the "Action Française" and poetic in Barrès, but which has always tended to result in a delight at being French easily degenerating into a contempt of everything non-French—a very unchristian state of mind—but to him also may be traced the higher nationalism, which consists in regarding patriotism as a fountain of individual greatness and nobility, and invites us to look around us and beyond our frontiers in quest of possible dangers or of possible improvements, an intelligent and thoroughly praiseworthy attitude.

However, the consequences of Anti-Semitism were not all so fortunate. Drumont was all his life foreign to religious notions of any kind; he was exclusively a student whom his patriotism caused to appear violent. But millions of people, both among his admirers and his enemies, misunderstood him. To this error must be put down the perversion which transformed the Dreyfus Affair from a purely military or judiciary case into a religious incident. The consequence was a display of passion which had not been seen in France since the Revolution, and which, as usual, resulted in unforeseen developments. The English reader is generally aware of the fact that France was unprepared for the war for two chief reasons: one being her religious divisions, which had diverted the attention of her leaders from foreign affairs; the other being a weakening of her military force—more especially of her intelligence service—which was hastily remedied between 1911 and 1913. But the same reader seldom realises that both Anti-Militarism and Anti-Clericalism were the direct consequences of the Dreyfus Affair, and that, under cover of justice being defended, Pacifism, Internationalism, and all the doctrines which hold in abhorrence the existence of an army, wriggled themselves into the minds of the multitude.

The judgment which each of us passes on Drumont hangs on the influence which is ascribed to his book. If it is the turning loose of mere passion, helped by the coincidence of the Affair, Drumont was an unfortunate factor in the history of his country; if it is the timely reminder that money and pleasure, or philosophy and indulgence, are not the motive powers of any noble nation, and that beside France there were other countries in which intelligent ambition was producing its usual effects, Drumont was a genius.

"La France Juive" created a fever, during which the French organism went through a crisis. Is it to be regretted? Suffice it to remember that when the book was published the two powers in presence were the monarchist idea, represented by a very noble man, the Comte de Paris, and the republican idea, defended by such poor champions as President Grévy. To-day, thanks, no doubt, to the war, but thanks also to the violent commotion of the Affair, the elements we have to deal with are very different. There is no question of régimes or of personalities. The welfare of the country is the common object, and Pacifism, having in the past three years become so ashamed that it is hardly visible, we only see the competition of men vying in foresight and energy, and everlastingly speaking of individual merit and responsibility. In spite of too apparent weaknesses, this means an undoubted progress.

ITALY AND ALBANIA.

By EDUARDO P. GINISTRELLI.

AMONGST the many and varied causes of discord which existed between Austria-Hungary and Italy, not the least important to Italy was the question of Albania. The fear that this province might one day share the fate of Bosnia-Herzegovina had always haunted the minds of Italian Foreign Ministers since the Congress of Berlin, when the Great Powers had given the Dual Monarchy a free hand in the administration of those territories which she subsequently annexed, as Europe has good reason to

know. The problem of Albania, indeed, was to Italy of vital importance, for the possession of Durazzo and Vallona, but more especially of the latter with its spacious bay, means holding the keys of the Adriatic Sea; and seeing that Italy, while she may boast of excellent seaside resorts along her extensive eastern coastline, is yet without any harbour of real military or strategic value, Vallona in the hands of a foreign Power meant to her ruin and complete subjugation.

As a result of the tension caused by this mutual distrust regarding Albania both Governments resolved to come to some form of agreement. Accordingly a meeting was arranged between Count Goluchowski and the Marquis Visconti-Venosta to take place at Monza, where in the name of their respective Governments an agreement was duly drawn up and signed in which both parties pledged themselves to maintain the status quo in Albania so long as that region continued under Ottoman administration, and, furthermore, should ought happen to disturb the status quo, both States agreed to favour the complete independence of the Albanian people. The contracting parties also bound themselves to hinder any third party from setting foot on Albanian territory; hence the treaty came to be popularly known as the "Noli me tangere" agreement. Substantially it was the application of Article 7 of the treaty of the Triple Alliance dealing with the status quo in the Balkans, especially applied to a portion of that peninsula which tended to jeopardise the maintenance of the great Alliance, the existence of which averted and postponed war between the rival allies. Nor did Italian precaution against Austrian intrigue end here; an agreement was concluded with Russia the effect of which was to nullify the clauses of the Treaty of Muerstegg, whereby Austria had attempted, if she had not actually succeeded, in completely excluding Italy from legitimate participation in Balkan affairs. Whenever possible the Italian Government had favoured the aspirations of the Balkan States, and it therefore came as a surprise that this policy should have undergone modification at the Congress of London, where Austria received Italian support in her demand for the complete evacuation of such parts of Albania as had been occupied by the victorious armies of the Balkan League. The Italian attitude caused much criticism both in Italy and outside; but, remembering the existence of the "Noli me tangere" agreement, the attitude of the Consulta was perfectly correct and justifiable; it meant nothing more or less than the adherence to a treaty the signing of which had been prompted by a desire to do justice to an oppressed nationality as well as by the all-powerful instinct of self-preservation.

The subsequent appointment, at German instigation, of Prince William of Wied to the throne of the newly created Albanian State, under the joint protection of Austria and Italy, was manifestly in favour of the former Power, but the retirement of the Prince shortly after the outbreak of the European war gave Italy the opportunity to make up for her past forbearance. She accordingly proceeded to occupy Vallona, and her active participation in the conflict on the side of the Entente nations justified her extending this occupation, with the result that practically all Southern Albania is now fortified and held by Italian troops. It would appear that such action has met with the approval of the Albanians themselves, who have, no doubt, appreciated the prosperity which the advent of the Italians has bestowed on them. The existence of such good feeling, as well as the number of Albanian colonies in Southern Italy, seems to have prompted the Roman Government to issue a proclamation of Albanian independence under the protection of the kingdom of Italy. The Albanian character is not devoid of good qualities, as so often represented, and, given good administration, the country, with its undeveloped resources, its geographical position and fine natural harbours, might again be made the connecting link between the Adriatic and Aegean seas—Rome and Byzantium—thus eliminating one at least of the many causes of contention in the Near East.

WIDES.

(The Maire of Arras has asked that some of the enemy guns which until recently shelled the city may be set there as a memorial of her deliverance by the British.)

THUNDER and thud and whine and whirr!
From Baudimont Gate to Saint Sauveur
You battered the side
Of the reeling town
And toppled a hundred houses down.
O! morning and noon and night as well
Your high-velocity Hatred fell
On billet and barrack and citadel,
And the Lord be thanked for a wide!

They have brought you from Monchy and Marlière,
To be pilloried high in the tortured square—
All tongue-tied—
And the hands are still
That schooled you, unknightly, to cripple and kill:
You have roared your last in the Schlachtenspiel.
Gunner, look to your gods of steel
Who levelled a bolt at England's weal,
But the Lord be praised for a wide!

H. CHESTERMAN, Capt., B.E.F.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MAN'S PART IN THE WAR AND THE WOMAN'S.—II.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Little Melands,
Chesham Bois.

SIR,—The first lesson enforced upon women by the war has its corollary: there is a woman's part, and the English women of to-day have not been taught how to play it.

It will at least be allowed of Englishmen that, once convinced of error, they own their mistake and make amends—like men. It is nearly three years now that Englishmen have been making amends and owning up mistakes. Women, those pre-wartime immaculate beings, are perhaps now to have the same experience—the chance is certainly theirs. Suddenly, when the fate of the war is seen to be hanging for England on the women's playing of their part, on their housekeeping, we are discovering with horror the full import of the commonplace we used to reiterate so complacently in peace times, that "English women are the worst housekeepers in Europe". The war is not won yet, and, even if it is not going to be lost by our bad housekeeping, there is every prospect of a satisfactory peace being jeopardised by it. We think of the women of France, and what they have done in house and field to ensure his daily bread to the fighter, and we find no cause to be proud. While our men have been doing the impossible in training themselves these three years into a citizen army holding its own against the life-long discipline of the Germans, what have women to show by way of response to the appeals showered upon them since the first week of the war to help by wise care of the nation's food? What is their record of national economy in consumption, of individual or organised effort to produce foodstuffs or ensure their most profitable use? Here was the women's part, and their failure in it cannot be for want of will. It is simply that in peace we never had the training, and since war came no one has been found to impose it on us, as training has been imposed on men, not even with the same liberal scale of exemptions. Are women of their own accord ever going to really rise to this occasion? Or are they going to take refuge in the excuse they are "only women"? For the immediate present the ways open to us are unexciting, and of the nature of the "daily round". Are our upper-class women, whose lead their humbler sisters will so quickly follow, going to show in their own practice that they consider housekeeping, always a fine art, henceforth a matter of life and death? Hitherto,

whatever our talk of rationing, who has ultimately had the manipulation of that food which has been restored to its old sacredness? The most ignorant and the most uninstructed members of our households have held its destiny in their hands. Whether this is to remain the practice the housekeepers of England will now have to decide.

And after? After the war? Whether England has been helped to unequivocal victory or dragged down to a victory that is half-failure by the failure of its women. When the time for reconstruction comes we ought to have our plans prepared for universal training of women to play a part which shall give every ounce of value to the nation's resources. Something is being done, beginnings are being made, and perhaps we are past the point where the tide turned. But almost everything remains to be done, and women appeal for recognition of the fact that there is a woman's part as well as a man's, and for a chance of learning how to perform theirs. To grant them this will not only best support the man's effort, but will be the surest way of helping women through the problems of replacement and displacement that will have to be faced when the men come home.

An honourable performance of their part was really just as much a matter of life-saving before the war as at this moment, but it wanted the magnifying lens of war to enable us to see it. The necessity of giving our girls the training in womanhood our boys have been having in manhood grows daily clearer, but where the men stood three years ago is where the women stand to-day. Perhaps Mr. Fisher will have helped the next generation. For ourselves we face many of the difficulties of the pioneer, and have not much besides our good will to face them with, and that spur, the necessity which is the mother of invention, perhaps at last getting to work.

There has been talk about Woman Suffrage lately, though to most women the question has grown oddly unimportant; but it has been said by certain public men that "after what women have done in the war" it cannot any longer be withheld from them. It seems rather like saying we must maintain in perpetuity all emergency measures devised to meet war conditions. Be that as it may, if the vote is to be given on the ground of deserts, then it cannot be too strongly pointed out that women have not yet won their right to it, and that by their handling of the grave food problem in the next few months they may also forfeit the masculine belief in their capacity for exercising it.

So far the men of England have been playing the game in their millions, the women in their thousands. How are we going to respond to the appeal for a million-fold effort? The next few months are to show.

Yours truly,

M. E. SIMKINS.

ITALY AND DALMATIA.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

"Polperro",

Lyncroft Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.

SIR,—Will you be so kind as to insert the following in your valuable journal? In answer to the letter published on 19 May by "A Lover of Italy" I must point out that his statements on Croatia, Dalmatia, and Slovenia are based entirely upon ignorance. Or possibly he has had the bad luck to make the mistake of calling a Dalmatian an Italian (consequently experiencing a very rough five minutes), and is now attempting to avenge himself upon the whole of the Southern Slavs.

I should have replied to his letter sooner, but at first I scarcely considered it worth notice. However, feeling that your readers love the truth, and are anxious for justice and fair play, I think it only right to enlighten those—of whom, no doubt, there are many—who have never had occasion to study Balkan affairs, still less of the Southern Slav population under the rule of Austria-Hungary, viz., Croatia, Dalmatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina.

THE
SATURDAY REVIEW
INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT.

No. 3,216. Vol. 123.

16 June 1917.

GRATIS.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED IN 1824.

Head Office: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

ASSETS EXCEED £24,000,000.

DIRECTORS.

The HON. N. CHARLES ROTHSCHILD, *Chairman.*

COL. FRANCIS A. LUCAS, *Deputy Chairman.*

SIR IAN HEATHCOAT AMORY, BART.
CHARLES EDWARD BARNETT, Esq.
FREDERICK CAVENDISH BENTINCK, Esq.
FRANCIS AUGUSTUS BEVAN, Esq.
HON. KENELM PLEYDELL BOUVERIE.
THOMAS HENRY BURROUGHES, Esq.
JOHN CATOR, Esq., M.P.
LORD DALMENY.
HUGH H. J. W. DRUMMOND, Esq.
CAPTAIN GERALD M. A. ELLIS.

THE MARQUESS OF HARTINGTON.
C. SHIRREFF HILTON, Esq.
W. DOURO HOARE, Esq.
ROBERT MARTIN HOLLAND, Esq., C.B.
ROBERT LEWIS, Esq.
CECIL FRANCIS PARR, Esq.
HON. HENRY BERKELEY PORTMAN.
SIR MARCUS SAMUEL, BART.
H. MELVILL SIMONS, Esq.
HENRY ALEXANDER TROTTER, Esq.
RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF VERULAM.

The Operations of the Company embrace all branches of Insurance.

**Full information respecting
ESTATE DUTY & CHILDREN'S
EDUCATIONAL POLICIES
Issued by the Company may be obtained
on written or personal application to the
Offices at the above address.**

O. MORGAN OWEN, *General Manager.*

WAR AND LIFE ASSURANCE.

WHEN the year 1915 ended the accounts of forty representative offices transacting life assurance business of the ordinary kind showed that during the two years which had then been affected by the war substantial progress had been made. Total premiums, approximately amounting to twenty million pounds, had increased by £162,695 or by 0·81 per cent., and the accumulated life funds, fully twelve and a half times as great, by £5,336,690, or by 2·16 per cent. Since then another year of war has unfortunately been experienced, but it is nevertheless still possible to record further headway—not of a slackening but of a more encouraging character. Practically the same group of offices, the only change being that the Abstainers' and General has been substituted for the Eagle, which was recently taken over by the British Dominions Insurance Co., Ltd., now show for three years a gain of £567,069, or 2·848 per cent., in premium income, and an increase of £8,994,153, or 3·521 per cent., in the amount of their life funds, which had expanded from £255,447,504 in 1913 to £264,441,657 in 1916.

It is evident from these comparisons that the rate of progress obtained by these offices in 1916, although notably slower than in pre-war times, was considerably accelerated compared with the results shown for the first two years influenced by hostilities. Why this should have occurred is not easy to explain, but it was doubtless due in part to the fact that the working staffs which had to be improvised when the national call to arms was made had become more accustomed to their work, and were consequently more efficient. It is certain, at any rate, that the conditions for transacting ordinary life assurance business were not more favourable last year than they were during the earlier months of the war. Probably they were less hopeful than in 1915. Owing to the general call to the Colours the lives eligible for assurance at usual terms were further greatly reduced in number, and life office managements were probably more insistent in demanding adequate premiums in those cases where the war risk had to be undertaken. Very little business of this nature was, indeed, transacted last year, and there was obviously no inflation of incomes consequent upon the receipt of extra premiums in large quantities. It has also to be remembered in this connection that trained staffs, both indoor and outdoor, were constantly being depleted by the demands of the naval and military authorities; also that much attention had to be paid to problems relating to taxation, investments, and the assistance from time to time required by the Government.

One may almost say without hesitation that the difficulties which had to be overcome last year were greater than those which presented themselves in 1915, or the last five months of the preceding year. And yet life assurance companies, as a body, appear to have done considerably better than in the period of fewer and less grievous troubles. Most offices, as a matter of fact, completed as large or a larger volume of new business, and several of their number were able to report a marked improvement on 1915 results. The Century, Friends' Provident, Liverpool and London and Globe, London Life, Norwich Union, Phoenix, and Scottish Provident are a few instances in point, but nearly all offices did fairly well last year, and those which did not were either extremely unfortunate or were deficient in organising ability or enterprise.

An examination of Table I., printed below, shows that the offices possessing enterprising managements have very substantially enlarged their premium receipts under war conditions. In some cases, indeed, the rate of expansion seems to have been very little less noticeable than in the years immediately preceding the great upheaval. These are some of the increases obtained during the last three years—Caledonian, from £275,497 to £302,806; Century, from £99,122 to £121,156; Commercial Union, from £611,192 to £708,158; Friends' Provident, from £181,078 to £201,601; Legal and General, from £945,864 to £1,005,937; Liverpool and London and Globe, from £274,420 to £307,287; London Assurance, from £206,569 to £220,398; London Life, from £404,075 to £460,135; Norwich Union, from £1,446,893 to £1,532,893; Royal, from £819,997 to £858,410; Scottish Provident, from £709,469 to £756,197; and Sun, from £924,564 to £1,027,553. The Abstainers' and General, Atlas, Equitable, Provident Clerks' (now renamed), Royal Exchange, Scottish Life, Scottish Temperance, United Kingdom Temperance, and Yorkshire also made good progress.

In the case of the life funds it is clearly much safer to generalise than to enter into particulars. About three-fourths of the offices named in Table I. keep no separate annuity account, hence, except as from the date of one valuation to another, it is practically impossible to note the

TABLE I.

Office.	Net Life Premiums.		Life Funds	
	1913.	1916.	1913.	1916.
Abstainers' & Gen.	104,796	123,023	726,264	934,700
Alliance ...	1,165,405	1,131,236	16,414,711	16,852,906
Atlas ...	199,188	218,419	2,193,707	2,107,159
Caledonian ...	275,497	302,806	3,297,029	3,665,007
Century ...	99,122	121,156	710,164	975,880
Commercial Union	611,192	708,158	5,594,915	6,996,841
Edinburgh ...	298,933	284,710	4,327,689	4,232,201
Eng. & Scot. Law.	228,794	214,265	2,793,034	2,674,540
Equitable ...	208,683	220,296	4,916,028	4,517,179
Equity & Law ...	356,146	344,188	5,053,849	5,006,776
Friends' Provident	181,078	201,601	3,275,836	3,221,661
General ...	181,776	168,553	2,020,798	2,052,396
Guardian ...	312,767	322,772	4,392,924	4,082,684
Law Union & Rock	580,102	584,304	8,187,871	8,216,943
Legal & General	945,864	1,005,937	9,210,702	10,983,699
Liverpool & London				
& Globe ...	274,420	307,287	3,947,147	4,200,478
Lon. & Lanc. Life	414,773	383,982	3,807,136	3,991,189
London Assurance	206,569	220,398	2,640,187	2,700,721
London Life ...	404,075	460,135	5,306,974	5,144,600
Metropolitan ...	170,618	171,152	2,272,021	2,226,449
National Mutual	196,584	193,098	2,986,833	2,816,019
National Provident	155,787	153,471	7,251,616	7,483,858
N. Brit. & Merc. ...	1,203,197	1,239,827	14,060,006	14,434,658
Northern ...	291,416	286,242	4,451,524	3,988,007
Norwich Union ...	1,446,893	1,532,893	9,960,584	11,900,059
Phoenix ...	714,083	714,388	1,006,045	1,070,841
Provident Clerks	208,151	227,185	2,769,028	2,895,496
Royal Exchange	360,375	389,984	3,680,326	3,818,601
Royal ...	819,997	858,410	10,529,845	11,030,482
Scot. Amicable ...	431,827	422,263	6,205,215	6,090,787
Scot. Life ...	205,161	228,289	2,035,350	2,302,300
Scot. Provident ...	709,469	756,197	15,700,550	16,175,618
Scot. Temperance	219,918	260,628	2,073,777	2,495,531
Scot. Union & Nat.	539,057	527,136	8,471,111	8,300,540
Scot. Widows' ...	1,425,797	1,423,319	21,522,668	22,444,824
Standard ...	1,018,029	892,075	13,478,704	13,443,895
Star ...	526,311	472,285	7,024,037	7,009,781
Sun ...	924,564	1,027,553	8,729,844	9,431,168
U.K. Temperance	739,861	795,102	9,962,872	9,997,068
Yorkshire ...	195,570	212,191	2,448,384	2,796,811
Totals ...	19,911,845	20,478,914	255,447,504	264,441,657
Inc. in 3 years	—	567,069	—	8,994,153
Inc. per cent. ...	—	2·848	—	3·521

NOTES.—* Includes Annuity Funds. † Excludes reserve of £60,000.
‡ Excludes reserve of £100,000; war reserve of £200,000; and special reserve of £25,000.

progress of the life assurance fund alone. In most cases the increase or decrease of the combined fund is far from being identical with the fluctuation of each of its constituent parts, and the action of the Norwich Union directors, who show the life assurance and annuity transactions in separate revenue accounts, can at the present time be recommended for general imitation. Combined accounts are apt to lead to serious misconceptions during periods when, for special reasons, there is a scanty demand for annuities. Directly war broke out life offices received smaller sums in the form of "consideration" money, and both in 1915 and last year there was a notable dearth of purchasers. On the other hand, the amounts paid to annuitants remained almost as large as before, some companies paying out in 1916 several times as much as they received.

Between 1913 and the end of 1916 the aggregate annuity capital in the hands of British life assurance institutions shrunk to a very appreciable extent, and consideration must be given to this fact when the position of any office at the close of these years is compared. All that can definitely be stated is that during the three years in question, when securities were being written down by previously unapproached sums, the life assurance funds of the forty offices mentioned increased by considerably more than 3½ per cent.; and, secondly, that in some cases where the combined fund shows contraction there had been an actual increase in the amount of the principal fund. Nine out of eleven offices whose accounts are not confused by the inclusion of annuity transactions added substantially to their accumulated resources, while in the case of the two less fortunate concerns the decrease was due to the quinquennial revaluation of securities, £216,638 being written off by the English and Scottish Law Life Assurance Association in 1915 and £458,858 by the Northern Assurance Company in the same year.

That ordinary life offices were able to add any money to the funds they possessed at the end of 1913 is truly remarkable, seeing how serious were their losses through the depreciation of investments and what large additional sums they had to find for income-tax. Merely taking a few companies at random we find that last year the Clergy Mutual Society wrote down securities by £501,201, the Guardian by £345,000, the Norwich Union by £527,030, and the Sun by £812,023, while in the preceding year a few of the more important amounts were as follows:—North British and Mercantile, £785,021; Northern,

£458,858; Scottish Amicable, £641,436; and United Kingdom Temperance, £866,535. Some offices, indeed, have reduced values year after year, as the subjoined brief tabulation shows:—

TABLE II.
Amount Written off or Placed to Investment Reserve.

Office.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Atlas	87,543	110,000	90,326
Edinburgh	47,452	110,063	56,629
Equitable	336,522	419,286	124,332
Friends' Provident	5,318	144,771	42,350
General	3,419	4,165	8,343
Guardian	213,054	315,000	345,000
Metropolitan	50,000	20,000	58,000
National Mutual	330	179,362	58,284
Phoenix	232,222	156,189	163,865
Royal Exchange	90,000	60,000	60,000

Millions of pounds, as a fact, had to be written off in each of the three years under review; and this misfortune occurred during a period when receipts from premiums, annuities, and interest were being seriously diminished by causes connected with the war, and when mortality in the fighting areas was adding heavily to the customary toll of death.

EFFECTS OF INCREASED INCOME TAX.

Comparatively little attention seems to have been given to the problem of income tax as affecting the prosperity of life assurance businesses. At practically all meetings of companies and societies reference has naturally been made to the subject, but the speakers, almost without exception, appear to have confined their remarks to the effect the increased tax has had on the net interest revenue. This has unquestionably been considerable—probably greater than most persons would have deemed to be possible. Table III., below, shows that in 1913 forty-one well-known offices earned interest on their life assurance or assurance and annuity funds to the amount of £10,959,209, of which £476,478, or 4·348 per cent., was required for income-tax, leaving a sum of £10,482,725 as the actual net amount earned. The tabulation also makes it clear that the burden of the tax was much heavier in 1916. Out of gross earnings amounting to £11,944,708 no less than £1,790,499, or 14·99 per cent., was absorbed by payment of the tax,

TABLE III.

Office.	Income Tax.	Net Interest Earned.	Income Tax.	Net Interest Earned.	Increased Income Tax.
	1913.	1913.	1916.	1916.	3 years.
Abstainers' & Gen.	1,560	25,190	9,237	30,013	7,677
†Alliance	40,739	663,101	159,040	587,990	118,301
†Atlas	5,290	88,259	21,591	85,519	16,301
†Caledonian	7,325	137,810	27,929	133,092	20,604
†Century	940	26,825	6,356	34,600	5,416
†Commercial Union	10,748	222,042	55,553	270,101	44,805
†Edinburgh	2,751	197,760	29,155	191,882	26,404
†Eng. & Scot. Law	6,911	112,549	20,886	104,524	13,975
†Equitable	10,745	186,414	44,235	168,926	33,490
†Equity & Law	9,542	147,143	31,586	123,601	22,044
†Friends' Provident	8,053	129,830	20,407	121,309	21,354
†General	4,887	76,474	8,984	73,930	4,097
†Gresham	3,498	118,179	15,745	395,863	12,247
†Guardian	9,082	1,427,771	46,349	159,645	35,311
†Westminster	1,956	30,146	70,475	304,007	59,901
†Law Union & Rock	10,574	335,621	76,667	294,266	59,848
†Legal & General	16,819	316,016	20,001	153,211	14,370
†Liverpool & London & Globe	5,631	152,599	19,133	149,662	12,704
†Lon. & Lanc. Life	6,431	151,308	23,115	101,285	16,916
†London Assurance	6,199	102,932	48,682	201,091	34,909
†London Life	13,773	226,760	20,873	83,401	13,275
†Metropolitan	5,598	91,364	23,317	94,530	18,697
†National Mutual	4,620	122,793	65,336	261,143	50,677
†National Provident	14,659	287,288	96,054	550,496	65,103
†N. Brit. & Merc.	30,951	581,498	36,436	130,763	27,583
†Northern	8,853	159,238	47,133	475,817	37,344
†Norwich Union	9,789	397,001	131,296	435,186	54,971
†Phoenix	21,824	432,593	14,117	95,061	9,247
†Provident Clerks	7,198	113,496	84,5975	824,249	140,104
†Royal Exchange	8,146	141,621	66,875	366,472	54,462
†Royal	15,754	399,326	79,723	415,436	47,129
†Scot. Amicable	7,997	238,367	49,126	237,416	47,129
†Scot. Life	5,998	81,338	16,856	90,259	12,858
†Scot. Provident	19,182	623,956	123,498	572,195	104,316
†Scot. Temperance	4,870	79,478	14,117	95,061	9,247
†Scot. Union & Nat.	13,272	351,780	71,092	303,437	57,820
†Scot. Widows	46,638	845,975	186,742	824,249	140,104
†Standard	12,413	565,510	66,875	366,472	54,462
†Star	12,745	280,709	39,696	268,668	26,951
†Sun	22,921	343,648	80,205	394,048	37,284
†U.K. Temperance	19,134	380,634	84,168	368,795	65,034
†Yorkshire	2,402	96,859	19,376	103,852	16,914
Totals	476,478	10,482,725	1,790,499	10,154,209	1,314,021

Add Inc. Tax ... 476,478 1,790,499
Interest earned ... 10,959,209 11,944,708
Inc. Tax = per cent. 4·348 14·990

Notes.—* Assurance and annuity funds are combined. † These companies keep separate annuity accounts.

reducing the net earnings to £10,154,209, or less than was obtained three years earlier, when the aggregate funds of the same offices were some nine million pounds less.

Here it may be suggested to directors and their chief executive officials that the above is an incorrect way to study the problem. What is income tax? It is not a business outgo in the sense that payments for death claims or surrenders are; nor is it expenditure, because expenditure can be controlled. It is simply an arbitrary Government deduction from the profit made by a life office during the course of the year; and that profit, or surplus, is not the one reported by actuaries. The true profit of a life assurance business is the surplus actually earned after payment of all claims and expenses, after revaluation of securities, after making provision for all future and contingent liabilities, and before deduction of income tax. It is against this surplus that the charge for income tax should really be measured. When this is done the burden of taxation is more thoroughly realised. Let us take the case of the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company, which values its liabilities at the end of each year. This office reported "an apparent" surplus of £60,344 on 31 December last, to which £29,155 should be added in respect of income tax paid, making £89,499 in all. On the other hand, however, £46,629 had to be written off the value of securities, and £13,175 was added to the reserves. Ignoring this last amount, as it may not have been absolutely imperative, the true surplus is found to have been £42,870, of which £29,155, or 68·01 per cent., was taken by Government. Members of the London Life Association were somewhat less unfortunate, but, as was shown in our issue of 2 June last, 47·79 per cent. of the profit earned for them by the management went in the same way.

ORDINARY-INDUSTRIAL OFFICES.

Not until peace has been declared for some years will actuaries be able to determine to what extent our great ordinary-industrial life assurance companies suffered, or may be expected to suffer, from the gigantic struggle which is now in progress; the balance-sheet will not be struck until the "death strain" has been ascertained by elaborate calculations, coupled with considerable experience, nor until the actual effects of the Courts (Emergency Powers) Act is known, nor until the price of securities has again become reasonably fixed. Of one fact, however, managements are now thoroughly assured—visible prosperity will not greatly diminish, however long the war may last; and they are also probably convinced that premium incomes and funds will continue to increase. Ordinary branches, although new business was greatly reduced in volume, made during the last three years extremely good progress, the premiums of the five leading companies—the Britannic, Pearl, Prudential, Refuge, and Wesleyan and General—increasing by £1,139,696, or by 15·94 per cent., and their accumulated funds by £6,550,651, or 11·12 per cent. It is evident from these figures that the rate of expansion was somewhat greater in 1916 than in the first two years unsettled by hostilities, a corresponding analysis showing that between 1913 and 1915 the premiums increased by 9·79 per cent. and the life funds by 7·41 per cent. In these two most important respects the companies named have therefore continued to make satisfactory headway, but in connection with the premium receipts it is necessary to mention that last year the Refuge Assurance Company received exceptionally large sums in the form of single payments—£596,957 against £79,073 in 1913. On the other hand, the aggregate life assurance fund of these five companies probably expanded by more than 11·12 per cent., as shown by Table IV., only small sums being received in 1916 in respect of annuities sold.

TABLE IV.

Office.	Ordinary Premiums.	Life Funds on Dec. 31.
	1913.	1913.
	1916.	1916.
Britannic	244,119	264,694
Pearl	561,380	684,350
Prudential	4,920,518	5,230,170
Refuge	1,210,051	1,877,701
Wesleyan & Gen.	211,501	236,550
Totals	7,147,769	8,287,465
Inc. in 3 years	—	1,139,696
Inc. per cent.	—	15·944

NOTE.—* Includes Annuity Funds.

With regard to the interest earned upon life funds, after deduction of income tax, the managements of ordinary industrial companies can also be credited with much successful work under most difficult conditions. Tables V. and VI., which should be studied together, show that

between 1913 and 1916 the cost of income tax increased in the case of the ordinary branches by 376·72 per cent., the amount so absorbed being more than £400,000 greater. In view of this fact there is a natural inclination to suppose that the net earnings of these companies on their ordinary funds must have contracted to a greater or less extent, but the tabulation shows that in all instances the net receipts from investments had swollen to an appreciable extent, by 8·585 in the case of the five oldest companies, and by 8·874 per cent. when the figures of the London and Manchester Assurance Company, which ends its financial year on 31 March, are included. No doubt the average net rate of interest realised had slightly decreased during the three years, because at the end of 1916 insufficient time had been allowed for the reinvestment of funds in securities bearing a higher rate of interest. The decline, however, could not have been of vital importance, seeing that an increase of £6,550,651 in the amount of the funds had been accompanied by an increase of £194,002 in the net amount earned.

TABLE V.

Office.	Net Interest Earned. 1913.	Net Interest Earned. 1916.	Increase in Three Years.
Britannic ...	62,807	65,349	2,542
Pearl ...	129,391	155,089	25,698
Prudential ...	1,773,248	1,882,865	109,617
Refuge ...	257,733	307,131	49,398
Wesleyan and General ...	36,640	43,387	6,747
Totals ...	2,259,819	2,453,821	194,002
Increase per cent. ...	—	—	8·585

TABLE VI.

Office.	Ordinary Branches.		Industrial Branches.		Increased Income Tax— 3 Years.
	Income Tax. 1913.	Net Interest Earned. 1916.	Income Tax. 1916.	Net Interest Earned. 1916.	
Britannic ...	2,617	62,807	17,263	65,349	14,646
Lond. & Manch. ...	402	6,489	2,093	13,607	1,691
Pearl ...	5,323	129,391	35,885	155,089	30,562
Prudential ...	82,934	1,773,248	348,712	1,882,865	265,778
Refuge ...	13,869	257,733	93,096	307,131	79,227
Wesleyan & Gen. ...	1,928	36,640	14,138	43,389	12,210
Totals ...	107,073	2,266,308	511,187	2,467,430	404,114
Inc. in 3 years ...	—	—	404,114	201,122	—
Inc. per cent. ...	—	—	376·72	8·874	—

INDUSTRIAL LIFE ASSURANCE.

Whatever opinions may have been held by the managements of industrial life offices when peace was broken—there were many pessimists in 1914—to-day nearly everybody is optimistic. War has led to industrial activity, much less unemployment, and the working classes who are the main support of these offices have been paid much higher wages. Their ability to pay premiums has consequently been greater than in pre-war days, and as a result of truly wonderful organisation nearly full advantage has been taken of the change. Compelled, *volens volens*, to work with depleted and perpetually changing staffs, and among a population from which many hundreds of thousands of insurable men had been temporarily or permanently removed, the managements of these vast businesses have simply added success to success. Although new assurances have been most difficult to complete and the receipts from new premiums have notably diminished, premium incomes have not ceased to expand, and funds have been accumulated at an extraordinary rate, bearing the circumstances in mind. Table VII, shows—first, that premiums amounting to £15,567,848 in 1913 had increased to £17,536,502, or by over 12½ per cent., in 1916; and, secondly, that in the case of the funds securing policyholders there had been an increase equal to 16·93 per cent., notwithstanding the vast sums which, owing to war depreciation, or other causes, had been written off or placed to reserve.

TABLE VII.

Office.	Industrial Premiums.		Life Funds.	
	1913.	1916.	1913.	1916.
Britannic ...	1,029,009	1,128,532	1,789,865	2,133,914
Pearl ...	2,445,306	2,848,488	4,817,191	6,117,943
Prudential ...	7,874,456	8,897,723	38,901,679	44,553,425
Refuge ...	2,170,549	2,337,075	2,497,703	3,176,972
Royal London ...	1,285,057	1,517,690	3,460,587	4,049,163
Wesleyan & Gen. ...	763,471	806,994	917,878	1,222,254
Totals ...	15,567,848	17,536,502	52,384,903	61,253,671
Inc. in 3 years ...	—	1,968,654	—	8,868,768
Inc. per cent. ...	—	12·646	—	16·930

Table VIII. is certainly not less instructive in its way. It definitely proves that the financial administration of

these offices, to which at least one-half of the community look for future protection, has not deteriorated. During the three years 1913-1916 the amount deducted for income tax rose from £97,896 to £457,644, showing an actual increase of about 367½ per cent. Despite this excessive burden the net receipts from investments of the seven principal offices expanded by as nearly as possible 11½ per cent., indicating that the average rate of interest obtained last year, although somewhat less than in 1913, left a satisfactory margin compared with the rates assumed for valuation purposes.

TABLE VIII.

Office.	Industrial Branches.		Ordinary Branches.		Increased Income Tax— 3 Years.
	Income Tax. 1913.	Net Interest Earned. 1916.	Income Tax. 1916.	Net Interest Earned. 1916.	
Britannic ...	3,180	76,294	20,672	78,253	17,490
Lond. & Manch. ...	1,806	30,380	6,043	38,963	4,337
Pearl ...	7,009	170,369	46,084	199,168	39,078
Prudential ...	71,667	1,434,613	311,308	1,592,868	239,641
Refuge ...	5,362	98,198	30,880	102,599	25,327
Royal London ...	7,274	120,094	30,938	135,529	23,664
Wesleyan & Gen. ...	1,598	30,360	11,710	35,936	10,111
Totals ...	97,896	1,960,308	457,644	2,183,316	359,740
Inc. in 3 years ...	—	—	359,748	223,008	—
Inc. per cent. ...	—	—	367·48	11·325	—

It is probable, no doubt, that in the case of both ordinary and industrial branches conditions were not quite so satisfactory on 31 December last as they were three years earlier. Under the combined influence of diminished new business, depreciating securities, increased taxation, and war mortality the percentage of surplus to net liability had visibly contracted. But this is about the worst that can be said. Valuation standards had not been lowered, although the rise in the value of capital might have justified the adoption of a higher assumed rate of interest, and reserve funds had been greatly strengthened in view of possible contingencies arising from the war.

THE ALLIANCE.

EXCEPT in its life department, where new transactions have been diminished by the war, the Alliance Assurance Company, Ltd., has remained prosperous under our new conditions, and the accounts show that great progress was made in each of the last three years, premiums and funds expanding to an unprecedented extent and large profits being realised. When the statements for 1913 and 1916 are compared it is found that during the intervening period the assets increased by upwards of two million pounds, and the net funds from £22,728,608 to £24,235,147, or by more than a million and a half pounds. Most of the expansion was naturally secured by the marine department, where the premiums and funds respectively increased from £218,259 and £437,862 in 1913 to £1,304,653 and £872,420, but other accounts show that the demand for insurance protection was by no means restricted to vessels and their contents. Comparative figures for the two years are as under:—

	1913.	1916.
Fire premiums ...	1,347,620	1,369,159
Funds on 31 December ...	2,116,059	2,127,018
Net interest earned ...	88,875	75,341
Employers' liability premiums ...	126,721	128,816
Funds on 31 December ...	234,181	298,219
Net interest earned ...	8,054	10,044
Miscellaneous premiums ...	57,652	86,339
Funds on 31 December ...	157,574	191,387
Net interest earned ...	5,804	7,122

In these three departments useful expansion was therefore secured during the war period, and in regard to personal accident insurance business—a small affair—it will suffice to state that the premium income has remained practically unchanged for several years, while, on the other hand, funds have steadily been accumulated.

All accounts, as a matter of fact, testify to greater financial strength than was possessed on 31 December 1913, and the balance-sheet shows that the credit at profit and loss account, which may be regarded as a general reserve fund, increased from £951,903 to £1,215,392, although £100,000 had been transferred to reserve for contingencies in 1915. Policy-holders, however, have no need to remember the existence of this huge balance, or the £5,450,000 of capital which has been subscribed, and is paid up to the extent of a million pounds sterling. Without this additional security they are now amply protected. Forty per cent. of the premiums for the year is usually regarded as an adequate reserve for fire risks unexpired on balancing day, but the Alliance has reserved 155·35 per cent. and thus made provision for possible conflagration losses. Other accounts are

THE EAGLE AND BRITISH DOMINIONS Insurance Co., Limited

HEAD OFFICE:

British Dominions House, Royal Exchange Avenue, E.C.3

West End Office: 79 PALL MALL, S.W.1.

BANKERS:

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED.

Authorised Capital - £3,000,000

Subscribed Capital - £2,453,688

Paid Up Capital - £548,159

Assets exceed - £4,000,000

PRINCIPAL CLASSES OF INSURANCE BUSINESS TRANSACTED:—

Annuities	Personal Accident	Sprinkler Leakage
Marine	Disease and Sickness	Fidelity Guarantee
Fire	Public Liability	Contingency
Burglary	Driving Risks	Licence
Employers' Liability	Indemnity	Life
Loss of Profits	Leasehold Redemption	
Plate Glass	Motor Car	

and Prospectuses applicable to any of these Departments will be sent on application to the Company's Head Office, ROYAL EXCHANGE AVENUE, E.C.3

BRANCHES:

LONDON—Life Department...	52 Threadneedle Street, E.C.2.	GLASGOW ...	157 West George Street.
"ALL-IN" Policy Dept. ...	3 Old Broad Street, E.C.2.	Life Department ...	65 Renfield Street.
City ...	41 Threadneedle Street, E.C.2.	LEEDS ...	26/27 Bond Street.
Law Courts ...	Lincoln House, High Holborn, W.C.1.	LIVERPOOL ...	15 Castle Street.
	1 Bird-in-Hand Court, Cheapide, E.C.2.	LUTON ...	7 Upper George Street.
Stratford ...	45 The Broadway, E.15.	MANCHESTER ...	9 Albert Square.
BELFAST ...	17 Wellington Place.	Life Department ...	Eagle Insurance Buildings, Cross Street.
BIRMINGHAM ...	63 Temple Row.	NEWCASTLE ...	4 Royal Arcade, Pilgrim Street, and 27 Mosley Street.
BRIGHTON ...	8 Pavilion Parade.	NORTHAMPTON ...	65 Abington Street.
BRISTOL ...	17/19 Clare Street.	NOTTINGHAM ...	14 Low Pavement.
CARDIFF ...	100 St. Mary Street.	PLYMOUTH ...	Newtown Chambers, Old Town Street.
DUBLIN ...	118 Grafton Street.	SOUTHAMPTON ...	37 Above Bar.
Life Department ...	4 College Green.	Life Department ...	5 Portland Street.
DUMFRIES ...	120A High Street.		

APPLICATIONS FOR AGENCIES INVITED. WRITE FOR PROSPECTUS "E."

even stronger. For instance, the personal accident account shows premiums of £10,817, and £18,666 in the way of net reserves, after providing for outstanding claims; while in the case of the employers' liability (United Kingdom) business the net reserves are equal to 183'03 per cent., and in the miscellaneous section, excluding the "Economic" funds, to 215'99 per cent. These figures give one some idea of the solidity of a well-managed home insurance business, and how ample, almost excessive, is the protection to-day afforded policy-holders.

THE BRITANNIC.

OFFICES transacting both ordinary and industrial life assurance business have undoubtedly borne more than a fair share of the burdens placed upon the community during the last two or three years. They have lost much new business in both departments, the return from their investments has been reduced by additions made to the income-tax, and provision has had to be made for depreciated assets; they have also been called upon to provide for contingencies which may arise from legislation which is now known to have been unnecessary, to pay many claims directly or indirectly attributable to the war, and to carry on their work with the help of depleted, inexperienced, and constantly changing staffs. In view of such facts, one might reasonably look for retrogression, not for advancement. The vitality of the businesses organised by these companies is, however, so great that they now seem able to stand up against any blows. From an actuarial standpoint there has probably been some weakening—mainly because a lower net rate of interest is temporarily being earned, and after-war mortality is uncertain. Great progress has, all the same, been made; and when normal conditions again obtain the fresh spurt will be attempted from a much higher plane.

In the last three years, for instance, the aggregate funds of the Britannic Assurance Company increased from £3,544,986 to £4,257,561, or by considerably more than £700,000; while the life assurance fund, although reduced by transfers to investment reserve, showed at £3,897,814 an expansion of nearly £600,000. Moreover, the increase of the revenue during these critical years was not inconsiderable, premiums advancing from £1,279,116 to £1,399,538, and the receipts from interest, etc., from £140,514 to £145,628, after income-tax had been deducted. In this last case the enlargement of the earnings was comparatively unimportant, owing to exceptional war taxation, the amount paid to the Government being £38,469 in 1916, against only £5,856 in 1913. Gross earnings increased, as a fact, to a larger extent than in any three previous years, and the two hundred thousand pounds mark is certain soon to be passed.

The separate revenue accounts show that all branches participated in the progress secured. In the ordinary branch the total premiums expanded from £244,119 to £264,694; the assurance fund from £1,509,240 to £1,763,900; the revenue from investments from £65,424 to £82,612; and the net yield from £62,806 to £65,349; while the movements in the case of the industrial branch were as follows:—Premiums from £1,029,009 to £1,128,532; fund from £1,789,865 to £2,133,914; gross interest from £79,474 to £98,925; and net interest from £76,295 to £78,253. Considerable headway also appears to have been made in connection with the capital redemption business now transacted by the company, and the substantial amount of £57,249 was at credit of the fund on 31 December last. To this it may be added that an investment reserve fund of £200,000 also existed, and that the company's holding in British securities now exceeds one million pounds sterling.

BRITISH EQUITABLE.

ALTHOUGH the life premiums of the British Equitable Assurance Company, Ltd., still exhibit signs of contraction, it is nevertheless certain that a stable position in this respect has really been reached. Since the fifty-ninth annual report for the year ending 31 January 1914 was issued the premium income, now almost exclusively derived from home assurances, has gradually been reduced from £111,491 to £104,050, or by something less than £7,500, but this decrease has, one may say, been due to the prudent decision of the directors not to accept proposals including military or naval risks; and not because a volume of business sufficient to maintain the total of the premium income could not easily have been procured. Last year, as a matter of fact, the decrease was almost immaterial, being well under two thousand pounds, and it is probable that the movement

would have been in the opposite direction had not exceptionally large payments recently been made in respect of policies maturing by survivorship—namely, £34,793 in 1913-14, and £80,838, £53,387, and £48,614 in the three following years. These maturities are for the time being causing a very appreciable loss of premium revenue, which is difficult to replace now that the number of persons considered eligible for life assurance has so greatly been reduced. It must also be remembered that many of the company's policy-holders have been killed in action, sums amounting to £15,696 having already been paid to their legal representatives.

Conditions at the moment are therefore not favourable to progress, but the recent accounts show that the groundwork is sound, and after the war the task of rebuilding the British Equitable should prove comparatively easy. Apart from war claims, which could not be avoided in the circumstances, the mortality experience of the company during the three years of the current quinquennium so far expired was thoroughly satisfactory. In 1914-15, when these claims amounted to £5,746 out of a total of £92,041, only 90 per cent. of the expected amount was required. In the following year the percentage was 91'5, or excluding war claims just under 83 per cent.; whilst last year the two percentages were 86'9 and 84'1 respectively. Interest, owing to the rise in the rate of income tax, has of course become a less profitable source of surplus, but the report states that the average rate earned last year was £4 5s. 2d. per cent. gross, or £3 11s. 4d. per cent. net, after deduction of income tax. Compared with the valuation rate of 3 per cent. the margin was therefore still considerable, and it may be expected to broaden now that the net return shown by gilt-edged securities is such an inducement to adopt a more up-to-date investment policy.

In its minor and more recently established ventures the British Equitable still continues to flourish. Premiums in the fire, accident and general departments marked last year a further considerable and encouraging expansion, and the fund was increased from 49,043 to £52,896, while in the employers' liability and domestic servants departments, where the premiums showed a small decrease, the proportion of additional reserve held beyond the 40 per cent. of the premium income set aside for unexpired risks remained practically unchanged. Including paid-up capital and the balance at credit of profit and loss, a total of £1,620,084 was shown by the various funds on 31 January last, and of this amount £1,524,159 was held on life assurance account.

THE CANADA LIFE.

ALTHOUGH the Canada Life Assurance Company was founded in 1847, and consequently is about seventy years old, its great importance began at a much later date, and was due to the genius and enterprise of men who were alive when the 20th century dawned. When the office had been open for more than thirty-three years the sums assured were less than £4,500,000, the accumulated funds were small, and the total income was not one-tenth of the amount received in 1916. Since the year referred to (1880) extremely rapid progress has been made, and the report for 1916 showed that at the end of that year there were assurances in force to the amount of £34,924,275—an increase of £1,856,756 having been obtained during the twelve-months; secondly, that the assurance and annuity funds amounted to £11,696,878; thirdly, that the premiums had totalled £1,108,333, interest amounting to £630,789 having also been earned; while, including consideration for annuities granted, cash profits applied to purchase paid-up additions, and miscellaneous receipts, the income of the company was £1,827,703, or not far short of a round two million pounds.

However, the Canada, notwithstanding its present magnitude, is most interesting on account of its indisputable actuarial stability, which at the end of last year had almost inappreciably been impaired by the war. The recent annual investigation, which was made by approved mortality tables at low rates of interest—3 and 3½ per cent.—showed that a net surplus of £248,745 had been earned, although war claims had absorbed about £123,000, and a net sum of about £30,000 had been applied in adjusting the value of securities. It also brought out the fact that, after transferring £20,548 to the contingency reserve and allotting £100,679 to policies whose quinquennial or deferred dividend periods matured in 1916, there was still £1,241,852 in the surplus fund.

These figures are undoubtedly remarkable, but the strength of the company's position can, at the same time, easily be understood. In the first place the Canada has always benefited from a particularly favourable mortality

THE CANADA LIFE

ASSURANCE COMPANY

is the oldest Life Office of the Empire from beyond the seas. It was founded in 1847 and now possesses Funds of over £12,100,000, thus being one of the largest Life Offices in the Empire.

Its financial position is unusually strong, and is under the strictest Government supervision.

Its Policy Contract, with Guaranteed Loan and Surrender Values, is the most liberal in the Life Assurance Market, and its Bonuses to Policyholders have not been surpassed.

All through the war it has paid its present high rate of Bonus, and last year carried forward practically £1,250,000 of undivided surplus. The Company also transacts annuity business on the best terms obtainable.

APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT AGENCIES

on Salary or Commission are invited from Gentlemen in a position to influence a moderate volume of new business annually.

Reply to **MANAGER,**

CANADA LIFE OFFICE,

Canada Life Building, King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C. 2.

British Equitable

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ACCUMULATED FUNDS	£1,650,062
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£300,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£34,500

**LIFE FIRE ACCIDENT
BURGLARY**

**EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY
AND THIRD PARTY**

*Write for particulars of the New Monthly
Premium Policy Without Medical Examination*

to The Manager:

1, 2 & 3, QUEEN STREET PLACE, LONDON, E.C.

experience, and even last year, when about 23·5 per cent. of the total death claims were directly due to the war, suspended mortality led to an important contribution to the surplus. Moreover, the company is specially well placed in regard to interest earnings. Considerably the largest half of the business is now valued with 3 per cent. interest, whereas the rate earned in 1916 is stated to have been £5 14s. 6d. per cent., and income-tax, if not allowed for in the calculation, could not have lowered the rate to any very appreciable extent. In the case of the expenditure, which is clearly considerable, and shows a somewhat high percentage on the amount of the premium income, it must also not be overlooked that the proportion of new to total premiums is unusually large, having been 13·48 per cent. last year. A business of this description necessitates liberal outlays, because the procurement of new business is many times as costly as obtaining renewals. Properly analysed, in accordance with modern actuarial theories, the Canada's expenditure is found to be moderate, and it is probable that a substantial part of the loading provided for expenses is in most years carried to the surplus.

CITY EQUITABLE FIRE.

PRIOR to the establishment of the City Equitable Fire Insurance Company, Ltd., re-insurance business had not been carried on with conspicuous success in this country, and the great tariff offices almost exclusively supported Austrian and German enterprises. This British company fortunately proved an exception to the rule, operating successfully from the first. Business was begun in February 1909, and up to the end of that year premiums amounting to £20,448 had been received and funds exceeding £9,000 had been accumulated. Since then extremely rapid progress has been made, the record of the company for the last seven years having been as follows:

Year.	Net Fire Premiums.	Net Funds.	Reserve Funds.	Investment Reserve.
	£	£	£	£
1910 ...	58,657	32,669	—	—
1911 ...	77,014	39,393	5,000	—
1912 ...	80,805	38,987	15,000	—
1913 ...	83,443	41,706	15,000	5,000
1914 ...	154,087	66,496	15,000	5,000
1915 ...	363,498	179,689	20,000	9,000
1916 ...	357,769	180,503	112,980	—

Last year a marine re-insurance department was also opened, and at the end of February 1917 the net premiums had amounted to £260,489, of which £106,500 was reserved for unexpired risks, and £25,000 was carried down as profit. In the fire and general department the profit realised, after reserving 40 per cent. of the premium income for unexpired risks, was £30,420; and £10,075 net was yielded by interest, dividends and fees, making £65,495 in all. Of this amount £36,000 was reserved for income-tax and excess profits, and £22,082 was carried to appropriation account, after provision had been made for directors' fees, losses on exchange, and loss on realisation of investments. The balance-sheet shows that the assets amounted to £720,518 on 28 February last, £75,000 being represented by paid-up capital, £362,588 by re-insurance funds and reserves, £37,396 by the unappropriated balance, £200,495 by the reserve for outstanding claims, and £42,270 by the reserve for income-tax and excess profits. To this it may be added that the investments, shown at cost, had a market valuation in excess of the amount claimed in the balance-sheet.

CLERGY MUTUAL.

A SPLENDID record stands to the credit of the Clergy Mutual Assurance Society. Founded in 1829, it had up to 31 May 1916, when a quinquennial valuation period ended, received a total sum of £13,629,020 in premiums, of which £9,901,517 had been paid to the representatives of deceased members, £396,864 to holders of policies of endowment, £360,807 to annuitants, and £719,182 in the form of surrender values, while the cash bonuses paid had amounted to £967,923, and those in reduction of premium to £2,598,559, making £3,566,482 in all. In the eighty-seven years the total payments had therefore amounted to £14,944,852, or £1,315,832 more than the members had paid in, and the revenue account showed that £4,338,603 was still in hand, although the large sum of £501,201 had just been written off in respect of depreciated assets. Such figures are unquestionably remarkable in the case of a life office which has consistently been noted for the moderation of its premium charges, but the interest they arouse is increased when it is discovered that the £9,901,517 paid in death claims included £1,876,311 in the way of added

bonuses. The bonus allotments had consequently totalled £5,442,793, or 39·935 per cent. of the premiums which had been received, and both the amount and percentage would have been considerably more striking had not war brought about a great reduction in the market valuation of high-class investments.

In view of such facts one can easily understand why this society, although it has never been represented by paid agents, is always able to complete a considerable number of policies for substantial amounts during the course of each year. People who are fortunate enough to be eligible for membership doubtless know two things—first, life assurance protection will be obtained at a very low cost; and, secondly, the bonuses which may be expected, if not actually relied upon, will prove substantial and render the investment an excellent one in the long run.

Indeed, this carefully managed society can scarcely fail to earn surplus on a most liberal scale. Throughout the recent quinquennium the expenditure equalled £7 1s. 9d. per cent. of the total premium income, and in 1915-16 only £6 4s. 7d. per cent. It must also be remembered that support is mainly derived from classes whose vitality is notoriously above the average, and this ensures a constantly favourable mortality experience. In the term completed last year a mortality profit of £409,056, or 23·8 per cent. of the amount of claims expected by the O=O table used in the valuation, was obtained, although war claims amounting to £54,348 had been paid. It is also certain that, in spite of increased income tax, considerable profits resulted from interest earned in excess of the 2½ per cent. assumed at the investigation in 1911. Now the assumption is 3 per cent., but the higher rate can be justified, inasmuch as the adjustment of the assets had the effect of automatically raising the gross rate earned from £4 2s. 8d. to £4 12s. 7d. per cent. A useful margin was therefore possessed when the current term began, and when the accounts for 1916-17 are circulated it will probably be found that the rate actually earned during that year was appreciably higher.

CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

CONSERVATIVE administration, never deviated from for a number of years, has made the Confederation Life Association what it is to-day—one of the soundest of life assurance institutions. The business is of no special antiquity, having been founded in 1871, but conditions in the Dominion of Canada have favoured rapid developments, and the accounts just issued show that a life and annuity fund of £4,299,419 existed on 31 December last, of which £48,399 was held as an investment reserve fund, £438,428 as surplus on policy-holders' account, and £21,334 on shareholders' account. The actuarial condition of the business was thus sounder than in most cases, and it is not necessary to qualify this statement, seeing that the rate of interest earned on the total funds (less deferred premiums and liabilities immediately payable) was 5·46 per cent., whereas the valuation rates assumed were 4, 3½, and 3 per cent., the lower rate being applied to £12,897,652 out of a total of £15,514,208 at risk, 3½ per cent. to £971,863, and 4 per cent. to £1,644,693, being business issued in the years 1871 to 1895 inclusive. Most of the assurances have, therefore, already been placed on a 3 per cent. basis, and it is probable that less than ten years hence that rate will have been applied to the whole of the contracts in force, seeing how rapidly the pre-1900 business is being liquidated.

With respect to excess interest earnings the Confederation Life is now in a much better position than most life offices, and its present liberal margin may be expected to widen, rather than diminish, during the next few years. Moreover, a sound and conservative policy has consistently been adopted in regard to mortality hypotheses, all assurances at ordinary rates being valued by the stringent O=O Table, annuities by the British Offices Select Life Annuity Tables, 1893, and tropical business by the American Tropical Experience Tables. Coupled with low valuation rates of interest, these standards ensure the maintenance of large reserves and the continuous solvency of the business.

Good management has also been shown in other ways. From the outset the volume of new business obtained has been large, and the statements prove that no excessive price was paid for it, analysed expense ratios indicating greater moderation than was felt necessary by the managements of most colonial offices in their earlier days. The result of this course has been the rapid building up of an imposing premium income and the constant accumulation of funds. Last year the premiums totalled £577,001, but of this amount £107,278 was represented by new premiums—an exceptionally high proportion, justifying

Large Bonus Additions

The Bonus declarations of the Scottish Amicable have been made throughout its history at consistently high (compound) rates. The rate declared at the recent division of profits (1915) maintained this record and resulted for the quinquennial period in annual additions to the original sum assured of from £1 15s. 0d. to £4 12s. 0d. per annum, according to the duration of the policy.

Scottish Amicable

ESTABLISHED 1826

Life Assurance Society

FOR MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE

NO SHAREHOLDERS

Funds Exceed - £6,000,000

Claims Paid - £11,000,000

Head Office: ST. VINCENT PLACE, GLASGOW

London Office: 1 THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

All Classes of Assurance and Annuity contracts effected

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY

GREAT in Age. It is a Centenarian in its own right, and by its absorption of the Amicable Society, the **OLDEST LIFE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.**

GREAT in Volume of Business. Its Annual New Business for many years past has been in excess of that of any other British Life Office not transacting Industrial Business.

GREAT in Profit-Earning Capacity. The Quinquennial Valuation as at 30th June, 1916, on exactly the same strong $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. reserve basis as in 1911, disclosed a surplus of £612,552, after the writing-off of £806,032 as the full measure of war shrinkage of invested funds and excess war mortality. The surplus distributed for the previous quinquennium was £627,504.

GREAT in Reserve Strength. After two years of war strain, reserves were set aside on the basis of a strictly net premium valuation at an assumed net interest earning rate of only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., in addition to which a further sum of £383,575 was reserved as a floating War Contingency Fund.

GREATEST in the Fact that the Directors at this war juncture maintained reserves on an even more severe basis than the exceptionally strong standard of 1911.

WRITE FOR PROSPECTUS AND VALUATION REPORT TO THE SECRETARY,

NORWICH UNION LIFE OFFICE, NORWICH

OR TO ANY AGENT OF THE SOCIETY.

considerable expenditure. Furthermore, the claim experience of the association has always proved favourable, and investments have been made with successful judgment—bonds and debentures, stocks and real estates, valued at £2,172,881, having a market value of £2,192,741 (or £19,860 more) on 31 December last.

Since the date of its organisation the association had, at the end of 1916, received £8,997,535 in premiums and annuities, had paid £5,243,732 to policy holders and annuitants, and held £4,335,543 on their behalf; so that for every £100 received £106 9s. 5d. had been paid out or was in hand. In the case of the policy holders alone the record for the forty-five years had been as follows:—Premiums received, £7,929,360; cash dividends paid, £708,525; profits declared, £20,325; allotted to deferred policies, £11,589; surplus held for distribution, £438,428; total, £1,178,867. The percentage of profit earned for policy holders had therefore been 14·9, which may be regarded as a satisfactory figure in the case of a young and progressive life office.

GENERAL ACCIDENT, FIRE AND LIFE.

ESTABLISHED in 1885, the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Ltd., has long held a conspicuous position in the world of casualty insurance, and the income derived from accident, employers' liability, and general premiums is extremely large, the aggregate for each of the last three years having been £1,355,086 in 1914, £1,163,829 in 1915, and £1,253,602 last year. The volume of transactions is therefore immense, but latterly the underwriting has not proved profitable, losses sustained in the United States, where conditions have been unsettled by the introduction of workmen's compensation laws and other causes, having more than absorbed the handsome profits made elsewhere. For this reason recent revenue accounts have worn a somewhat woe-begone appearance, but it is now understood that the work of reorganising the United States business is approaching completion, and it is probable that in future years the accident and general accounts will add largely to the profits obtained by the other departments.

Outside of the United States the business of this corporation is undoubtedly most profitable, accident underwriting having resulted in a surplus of £73,940 in 1915 and £105,971 in 1916, while the fire account shows that profits amounting to £17,110 and £39,570 were obtained by the fire department in those two years. Prior accounts equally confirm the opinion that, apart from the United States field, the business carried on by the corporation is exceptionally remunerative. When that field, which has caused so much trouble, shows a profit instead of a loss, the amount available at the end of the year for dividends and other purposes should certainly prove large, and lead to a rapid recovery of the prosperity which has temporarily been lost. When one department of an important business is consistently productive, and yields profits to the amount of £88,279 in four successive years, and when only one section out of many included in another department is unprofitable, it certainly should not take long to put everything right. In this connection it may be mentioned that since the end of 1912, when the attention of the directors was called to the situation in the United States, the cost of conducting the American business has been greatly reduced, and was about normal last year. The loss ratio has also improved, but there is obviously room for further progress in this desirable direction, and this, in view of the directors' remarks, may now confidently be looked for. The balance sheet shows that the security for policyholders amounted to £1,726,431 at the end of last year, £403,000 being represented by paid-up share capital, and £1,323,431 by various funds, reserves, and balances.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE.

OLDEST of the insurance companies which have their headquarters on the Mersey, the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company has long held a foremost position among institutions transacting business on international lines, and the income from all sources now runs into millions sterling. Fire premiums are still the chief source of revenue, and yielded £3,263,109 in 1916; but other premiums, plus interest, produced almost as large a sum. Stability is, however, the essential characteristic of the business, and the security afforded policyholders is now more than ample, all accounts being well equipped with funds; while the balance-sheet shows that on 31 December last there was a general reserve fund of £1,000,000 in existence, supported by two-thirds of a million pounds at credit of profit and loss account.

Successive annual reports indicate that the underwriting is of a specially sound description. In almost all years the net amount transferred to profit and loss has proved substantial, and in most years the reserves have also been strengthened. For the last three years—necessarily affected by war conditions—the sums carried down from the various accounts, excluding the life account, were as follows:—

	1914.	1915.	1916.
	£	£	£
Fire	172,141	353,806	398,588
Marine	63,852	22,472	98,667
Personal accident ...	12,194	— 6,000	6,708
Employers' liability ...	20,407	34,973	21,856
Miscellaneous	33,375	114,259	57,102

These figures imply, if they do not actually prove, the possession of particularly favourable underwriting facilities, and it is generally understood that the company gets its full share of the choicest risks both at home and abroad. It is certain, at any rate, that the percentage of profit obtained from underwriting is above the average—a fact which may be attributed to the reputation of the company for financial solidity and fair dealing. Every account, as a fact, now exhibits notable strength, as a few calculations show. Excluding reserves made for outstanding claims, the funds held on each separate account on 31 December last represented the following percentages of the premiums received during the twelve months:—Fire, 70·65; marine, 80·01; personal accident, 52·50; employers' liability, 60·00; and miscellaneous, 53·58. These reserves were ample as a first line of defence, and they were more than sufficient when the general reserve and profit and loss balance, amounting together to £1,666,365, had been taken into account.

The life business has also been successfully conducted—especially in recent years. From the opening of the participating class up to the end of 1913 the reversionary bonuses declared had equalled 35s. per cent. per annum on sums assured, and during the last three years there was—apart from Stock Exchange depreciation, war mortality, and additional income-tax—no want of prosperity. Instead of decreasing, the new business of the company actually increased, and the yearly accounts show that between 1913 and 1916 the "L. & L. & G." premium income expanded from £273,340 to £306,811, the funds from

... THE ... CITY EQUITABLE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital - - £375,000
Paid-up Capital - - £75,000
Reserve Funds Exceed - £400,000



FOR

RE-INSURANCES

Head Office—Fire Department:

38 OLD JEWRY, LONDON, E.C.
ACCIDENT.

Accident Re-insurance Department:

31 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

DIRECTORS.

G. L. BEVAN, Esq., Chairman.

C. T. BARCLAY, Esq.
Capt. The Rt. Hon. Lord CLANMORRIS
Col. Sir DOUGLAS DAWSON, G.C.V.O.,
HENRY R. GREENSIDE, Esq. [C.M.G.]
E. G. MANSELL, General Manager.

The Rt. Hon. The EARL OF MARCH,
DAVID M. M. MILLIGAN, Esq. [M.V.O.]
The Rt. Hon. Lord RIBblesdale,
PETER HAIG THOMAS, Esq. [P.C.]
E. A. NEWLAND, Secretary.

TOTAL FUNDS
EXCEED
£17,000,000



CLAIMS PAID
EXCEED
£98,000,000

Chairman: Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE - LIFE - MARINE - ACCIDENT BURGLARY

ANNUITIES GRANTED ON FAVOURABLE TERMS.

General Manager: SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE

Incorporated by Royal Charter, A.D. 1790.

For FIRE, LIFE, MARINE, ACCIDENT, CAPITAL and LEASEHOLD REDEMPTION, BURGLARY and PLATE GLASS Assurances.

Head Office:—No. 7, ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON.

West End Office:—22, PALL MALL, S.W. 1.

Governor—COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.

Sub-Governor—CHARLES S. S. GUTHRIE, Esq.

Directors—

CHARLES G. ARBUTHNOT, Esq.
HENRY BATESON, Esq.
OTTO AUGUST BENECKE, Esq.
ROBERT HENRY BENSON, Esq.
WILLIAM THOMAS BRAND, Esq.
RUDOLPH ERNST BRANDT, Esq.
C. ALGERNON CAMPBELL, Esq.

ALFRED CLAYTON COLE, Esq.
GERARD POWYS DEWHURST, Esq.
Hon. GERALD H. B. GIBBS.
HENRY GOSCHEN, Esq.
RONALD OLAF HAMBRO, Esq.
ROBERT E. HENDERSON, Esq.
CURTIS W. LAMPSON, Esq.
FREDERIC LUBBOCK, Esq.

Secretary—C. A. DENTON, Esq.

Deputy-Governor—JOHN M. RYRIE, Esq.

RONALD MALCOLM, Esq.
GREVILLE H. PALMER, Esq.
SELWYN R. PRYOR, Esq.
Rear-Adml. HECTOR B. STEWART.
GEORGE W. TALLENTS, Esq.
Hon. PERCY M. THESIGER.
VINCENT C. VICKERS, Esq.

Fire and Life Manager—JAMES CLUNES, Esq.
Assistant Fire Manager—G. H. MARKS, Esq.
Accident Manager—W. H. NORRIS, Esq.

Underwriter—E. F. NICHOLLS, Esq.
Deputy Underwriter—P. H. MATTHEWS, Esq.
Actuary—A. G. HEMMING, Esq.

The Corporation has granted Fire, Life and Marine Assurances for nearly Two Hundred Years, and now also undertakes Capital and Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Plate Glass and Accident Business, including Liability to Employers in respect of Domestic Servants, Shop and Warehouse Assistants, under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906.

INCOME, 1916.

Life Premiums	£220,397 19 11
Fire Premiums	803,837 7 4
Marine Premiums	1,157,702 2 9
Accident Premiums	16,129 4 10
Interest	240,797 13 0
Other Receipts	2,309 19 1
	£2,441,174 6 11

FUNDS, 31st December, 1916.

Shareholders' Capital paid up	£448,275 0 0
General Reserve Fund	550,000 0 0
Life Assurance Fund	2,700,722 17 7
Capital and Leasehold Redemption Fund	15,785 10 8
Fire Fund	820,000 0 0
Marine Fund	1,000,000 0 0
Accident Fund	32,220 19 4
Profit and Loss	184,875 6 4
Investments Depreciation Fund	200,000 0 0
Provision for accrued liabilities	475,233 10 5

Prospectuses and copies of the Accounts can be had on application.

£6,427,113 4 4

£3,897,853 to £4,165,890, and the net interest earnings from £149,901 to £151,963, although the sum paid to Government was necessarily much larger. Moreover, the claim experience has remained notably favourable, taking the war into account, successive amounts provided having been £284,284 in 1913, £214,924 in 1914, £355,532 in 1915, and £276,376 last year. As these totals include claims due to survivors, they afford no true measure of the mortality experience; but they indicate the continuance of satisfactory conditions, except in 1915, and it was stated at the recent annual meeting that war claims had required £66,594 in all up to 31 December last.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

MOST popular among persons who can afford to take out policies of life assurance for substantial sums—say from £500 to £2,000 or more—the London Assurance, which was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1720 and is now one of our most venerable institutions, has necessarily not been able to complete a really large volume of new life business since the war began. When the policies issued average £1,000 or more each year, it is manifest that most of the patronage is derived from the monied classes, which have been specially hard hit by the financial effects of the war in the shape of depreciated investments, increased income tax, and subscriptions to war loans and relief funds. In the case of this corporation diminished transactions were therefore inevitable, and it is a relief to find that the business completed in the last three years was larger than in the opening years of the century. Naturally, it fell far short of the fine records made in 1912 and 1913, but at any rate it sufficed to maintain the growth of the total premium income, which rose from £206,569 in 1913 to £210,235 in 1914, to £216,511 in 1915, and to £220,398 last year.

Funds also increased, from £2,640,187 on 31 December 1913 to £2,700,723 at the end of last year, though the accounts show that a sum of £52,000 was transferred to the investment fluctuation fund in 1914, this reserve forming part of the £146,747 written off securities at the end of the following year, when the last quinquennium ended. It may further be pointed out that cash bonuses amounting to £56,045 were paid last year to policy holders who preferred to take their allotments in that form rather than have reversions added to their sums assured. The drain on the funds has therefore been unusually heavy of late, without taking into account the war claims which have had to be paid or the immediate loss by higher income tax rates. In these circumstances slower expansion was inevitable, but it is manifest that the condition of the life business has remained generally satisfactory. Normal mortality, favourable in both 1914 and 1915, was exceptionally so last year, and at the recent meeting it was stated that the rate of interest earned had been £4 14s. 7d. per cent.—a rate which, after deduction of income tax, showed a fair margin beyond the 3 per cent. assumed in the valuation.

With reference to the fire, marine, and accident departments it is hardly necessary to say more than that their prosperity has become more apparent, war conditions having led to a marked increase of business at rates which up to the end of last year had proved remunerative. Between 1913 and 1916 the fire premiums increased from £695,147 to £603,837, the marine premiums from £395,094 to £1,157,702, and the accident and other premiums from £15,608 to £16,129, while the respective funds on 31 December showed the following expansion:—Fire, from £750,000 to £820,000; marine, from £420,000 to £1,000,000; accident, from £20,653 to £32,221. In all three cases, therefore, the expansion of resources had at least kept pace with the increase of the liabilities assumed, and in the meantime substantial sums were carried from these accounts to profit and loss—namely, £145,667 in 1914, £221,496 in 1915, and £253,873 last year. Furthermore, the profit and loss balance had increased by over £22,000, although £100,000 had been added to the general reserve, which now stands at £550,000, and securities had been written down or depreciation provided for by transfer to the investments depreciation account.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE.

OFFICES transacting life assurance business in our Colonies and in foreign countries have necessarily suffered exceptional hardships from the war; operations in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and British India were much impeded for a time, and foreign premiums have been practically unobtainable. In view of these facts the report of the London and Lancashire Life and General Assurance Association, Ltd., can be regarded as a most encouraging document. It shows—first, that the volume of new assur-

ances completed was substantially larger than in 1915; secondly, that the expansion was greater in the Colonies than it was at home; thirdly, that the decrease of the total premium income was relatively small and was mainly due to the falling off in foreign premiums; and, fourthly, that, notwithstanding increased taxation, the net interest earnings continued to expand. Claims by death were also lighter than in the preceding year; surrenders were on a less important scale; and, lastly, the expenses of management, apart from commission, were again appreciably less.

The new business return shows that, although no foreign business of any description was transacted, the assurance increased from £538,937 to £609,601 in amount—from £287,763 to £308,795 in the case of the home business, and from £245,226 to £300,806 in that of the Colonial business. New annual premiums also expanded from £20,440 to £23,226, and nearly three times as much was received by way of single payments. These comparisons are instructive, inasmuch as they demonstrate the natural vitality of the association's connections. In the case of the total premiums, which amounted to £414,773 in 1913, there was a further decrease from £389,879 to £383,982, but of the difference shown £4,168 was due to the falling off of foreign receipts. As a set-off, however, the receipts under the head of interest, etc., enlarged from £161,664 to £168,797, and from £147,707 to £149,661, after income tax had been deducted; while the average rate earned rose from £4 4s. 1d. to £4 6s. 11d. per cent. gross and from £3 16s. 8d. to £3 16s. 10d. net. Mortality claims, moreover, decreased from £236,587 to £232,180, but this welcome contraction appears to have been solely due to a reduction in the amount of the war claims, and it is evident that the strain of the war has exercised an adverse effect on the vitality of the policy-holders as a body. This seems to have been the experience of many other companies and societies, and it is consequently probable that for a number of years mortality profits will prove smaller than in pre-war times.

With respect to the fire, accident, employers' liability, and general departments, which are the sole property of the shareholders, it will suffice to state that they were more prosperous in 1916 than in any previous year, and that in all sections 40 per cent. of the premium income is now reserved for unexpired risks. A definite step in advance has

THE NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA, LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1869

Funds over £10,000,000
Annual Income over £1,660,000
New Business over £3,200,000 per annum

No Shareholders.

Purely Mutual.

PREMIUM RATES. 10 per cent. below average of English and Foreign Offices.

CHILDREN'S ENDOWMENTS. A specially attractive popular scheme. Premiums ceasing on death of parent.

Write for a copy of our New Booklet entitled "The Wheel of Life."

ANNUITIES. The Association is THE BEST OFFICE FOR ANNUITIES. Return generally $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. better than most Offices. In some cases the difference is as much as 2 per cent. per annum.

Large Bonuses.

Liberal Conditions.

Chief Office for Great Britain and Ireland:

5 CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.

Manager: H. W. MEYERS.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE

THE DISTINCTIVE SYSTEM OF THE

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

offers the substantial advantage of WITH-PROFIT Assurance at premiums differing little from the Non-Profit rates usually charged by other offices.

The entire Surplus goes to the Policy-Holders

on a system at once safe and equitable—no share being given to those whose early death causes loss to the Common Fund.

Policies with Premiums LIMITED TO A SPECIFIED NUMBER can be secured at rates which differ little from those COMMONLY CHARGED DURING THE WHOLE OF LIFE.

The Accumulated Funds amount to

£16,000,000

LONDON:

3, Lombard Street, E.C.

WEST-END:

17, Pall Mall, S.W.

HEAD OFFICE:

6, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

CLERGY MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1829.

Office: 2 & 3 The Sanctuary, Westminster, S.W.

THE SOCIETY'S
NEW RATES FOR
WITHOUT-PROFIT
ASSURANCES
ARE EXCEPTIONALLY LOW

BUT, NOTWITHSTANDING,
THE SOCIETY ALLOWS
MOST LIBERAL
SURRENDER-VALUES

*These Assurances are
open to the General Public*

EXAMPLES OF ANNUAL PREMIUMS

Age next Birthday.	£1,000 at Death.	£1,000 at age 60 or earlier Death.
25	£14 9 2	£20 0 0
30	16 14 2	24 9 2
35	19 11 8	30 16 8
40	23 5 10	40 10 0
45	28 1 8	56 14 2
50	34 5 0	88 19 2

therefore been taken, and its effect on the future volume of premiums should be considerable.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER.

BOTH ordinary and industrial life assurances are granted by the directors of the London and Manchester Assurance Company, Ltd., and for a number of years two separate branches have existed. At present, however, the operations of the ordinary branch are comparatively small, and something like nine-tenths of the large premium income is still derived from weekly collections. In the year which ended on 24 March last the respective sums received were £86,163 in the ordinary branch and £746,595 in the industrial branch, which had further to be credited with a small sum in respect of sickness and medical aid benefits. Taken as a whole, therefore, the transactions of this company are on a very important scale, and careful management has resulted in the accumulation of substantial assurance funds, the amounts shown at the end of last year being £369,982 and £1,145,785 respectively, while the balance-sheet showed that an investment reserve fund of £120,000 had also been created.

When the accounts are examined for a term of years it is found that the business of each branch is highly progressive. In the ten years ended 24 March last the combined premium income increased from £423,542 to £833,215, and this was accompanied by an expansion from £452,691 to £1,659,258 in the aggregate of the funds. Even in the difficult circumstances occasioned by the war substantial progress appears to have been made. Shortly prior to the outbreak of hostilities the sums raised in premiums by the two branches were £63,930 and £647,823, while the amounts then held for the security of policy-holders were £195,957 and £916,352; and at that time, moreover, only £25,390 had been set aside for investment reserve purposes. In all four instances, therefore, the subsequent expansion had proved considerable, and it was obtained, it must be remembered, during three years when new transactions were scarce and when all other difficulties were accentuated by the national call to arms.

In point of fact, the "London and Manchester" can be seen to have made greater headway than seemed possible in the circumstances. Not only were handsome additions made to the premium receipts and funds, but the net return from investments also steadily enlarged—from £6,489 to £13,607 in the case of the ordinary business and from £30,380 to £38,963 in the case of the industrial branch. Furthermore the accounts show that the operating cost had been immensely reduced. Apart from commission, the expenses of the ordinary branch were £4,978 in 1913-14 and only £4,712 in 1916-17. Symptoms of sound administration are thus generally present, and when normal times and confidence return the company's appeal for support will doubtless meet with a favourable response.

THE PRUDENTIAL.

SEVERELY tested as it has been in recent years, our greatest life assurance company is to-day happily unimpaired in stability, and probably stronger than ever before. For some time previous to the European war high-grade securities had gradually decreased in value, and the accounts of the Prudential Assurance Company show that on 31 December 1907 reserve funds amounting to £2,550,000 had been created—£1,300,000 in the ordinary branch and £1,250,000 in the industrial branch. Since the end of that year, when the decline in market valuation had assumed considerable importance, the sums transferred to investment, Courts (Emergency Powers), and contingency reserve funds have amounted to no less than £7,922,447, making, with the reserves held in 1907, an aggregate sum of £10,472,447 withdrawn from profits by circumstances over which the management had no possible control. The strain on the business during the last dozen or so years must thus have been intense, but there has never been a year when the annual investigation failed to disclose a satisfactorily large surplus in both branches.

The last valuation made by Mr. J. Burn, the actuary, as on 31 December 1916, showed that before transfers had been made to reserve funds there was a surplus of £1,418,240—of which £1,198,909 had been earned during the year—in the ordinary fund, and one of £1,000,892 in the industrial fund, the year's operations having resulted in a profit of £751,610 being obtained in that section. No possible doubt in regard to the present soundness or remunerative character of the business can therefore exist, and it is evident that the cessation of hostilities will speedily be followed by a return of the amazing prosperity so long enjoyed.

Of course, the Prudential has been shaken by the terrible

events of the last two and a half years, and in neither branch is the surplus as large as it was before the war. This was inevitable. Under war conditions Stock Exchange securities have continued rapidly to shrink, and the company has also paid *ex gratia* an enormous sum to the relatives of policyholders killed in action, while at the same time it has been compelled to make full provision for possible contingencies. Up to the end of last year the war claims paid in the two branches had amounted to £1,860,000, and had exceeded 88,000 in number. The burden of generosity had therefore proved exceptionally heavy, and it would certainly not have provoked any legitimate comment had the management reported a temporary actuarial deficiency. That no such step was necessary in altogether abnormal circumstances is simply a tribute to the excellence of the administration. In addition to the huge sums which have from time to time been written off, there exists at the present moment an investment reserve fund of £3,400,000, a contingency fund of £1,500,000, and a special reserve of £350,000 set aside in respect of losses which may arise from the unwholesome provisions of the Courts (Emergency Powers) Act of 1914.

These reserves may not be more ample than conservative prudence suggests to be necessary in order to ensure the continued solvency and profitability of the great business, but they should certainly suffice to tide the company through our present war troubles, seeing that on 31 December last an investigation showed that the investment reserve was "much more than sufficient to meet any depreciation of the permanent securities," and terminable securities had been provided for by the establishment of sinking funds; prices, it may be added, have since risen to an appreciable extent. It may also be as well to note that a large percentage of the assets (now approximately £100,000,000) is no longer subject to depreciation in a serious sense. An amount of £25,002,000 is invested in new War Loan stock, about £2,400,000 in other home Government securities, something like £26,000,000 in mortgages and loans, and several million pounds in rent charges, ground rents, house property, and reversions—investments which need not be sold and are certain sooner or later to recover their popularity. The chances in regard to further losses being incurred through Stock Exchange depression have thus been immensely diminished, and, at the same time, higher rates of interest are being obtained.

AUSTRALIAN Mutual Provident Society.

ESTABLISHED 1849.

The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire.

FUNDS	£36,000,000
ANNUAL INCOME	£4,500,000

MODERATE PREMIUMS.

LIBERAL CONDITIONS.

WORLD-WIDE POLICIES.

EVERY YEAR A BONUS YEAR.

Whole Life Policies 20 years in force show average increase of the sum assured by bonus exceeding 50 %.

Endowment Assurance results also unsurpassed.

37 THREADNEEDLE ST., LONDON, E.C.

ESTABLISHED 1862.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE AND GENERAL

ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED

Head Office—66 and 67, Cornhill, London, E.C.

TOTAL FUNDS AND ASSETS EXCEED £4,400,000

LIFE FIRE ACCIDENT

To Subscribers to 5% WAR LOAN:

THE ASSOCIATION has prepared a Scheme (known as War Loan Scheme "A") by means of which any sum which may have been paid up on War Loan Stock by **Firms, Companies or Individuals** may be **immediately available for use in business or otherwise**. The amount advanced by the Association for this purpose will be repayable by yearly or half-yearly instalments, over a period of from 5 to 20 years at the option of the Subscriber, subject to a satisfactory medical examination.

Should the Subscriber live the full period over which the instalments are payable his War Loan Stock will be handed to him **free of all liability**.

In the event of the Subscriber's death in the meantime the War Loan Stock will be transferred to his Legal Representative **free of all liability**.

Prospectuses and every information may be had on application.

WM. AENEAS MACKAY, General Manager.

INVESTMENTS

YOU have doubtless realised the necessity for having your life assured for the benefit of your wife and family. Possibly the policy was obtained when your circumstances were not quite so good as they are at the present time, and although the policy now held by you might have been considered quite an adequate provision at the time it was taken out, your altered circumstances call for an increase in the sum assured and the longer the matter is delayed the higher the premium will be.

*Therefore the BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COMPANY, Ltd.,
would like to have the privilege of quoting rates for the new policy.*

If you are desirous of providing a sum payable to yourself at the end of a given period, you should take out an Endowment Assurance Policy, as under such a contract the sum assured is payable to yourself at the end of the term of years selected by you, or to your representatives in the event of your previous death.

If, on the other hand, your position is fully secured, and your only concern is to provide for your wife and family, then a Whole Life Policy payable at death is the one you should select.

The Life and Endowment Assurance Policies issued by this Company constitute one of the very best methods of providing for the future.

The Company issues Policies in the Ordinary Branch at Yearly, Half-Yearly, and Quarterly Premiums; and in the Industrial Branch at Weekly and Monthly Premiums.

The stability of the Company is undoubted. Since its establishment fifty years ago, the "Britannic" has paid £11,650,000 in claims on Life, and Endowment Assurance, Policies.

The Secretary will be glad to have an opportunity of supplying further particulars.

CHIEF OFFICES:

BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM

SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE.

WHENEVER the valuation basis of a life office is altered by the adoption of a higher rate of assumed interest so as to set free a portion of the reserves, there is always some uncertainty as to the reception that will be given to the change. At the last investigation, as on 31 December 1915, the course indicated was taken by the directors of the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society, future interest at the rate of 3 per cent. being taken credit for, compared with $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at several previous valuations. That the change in question had received the cordial approval of the members was, of course, well known, but there was just a doubt as to how the matter would be viewed by the assuring public, which is still largely unexpert in regard to life assurance problems. To-day we know there was no cause for doubts of any kind. During 1916—the first year of a new quinquennium—the directors received 856 proposals for life assurance amounting to £888,216, and completed 720 policies for £750,377 gross, and £676,897 net, after re-assurances had been deducted. As this volume of business was only slightly less than that completed in a year at the end of which profits were to be distributed, it is evident that the management were well advised when they decided, in view of the higher rates of interest now ruling, to fall into line with the majority of the leading British offices, and value with 3 per cent. interest.

Previously the actuarial hypotheses adopted by this Glasgow office were undoubtedly open to the charge of being unnecessarily stringent, and their continuance at a time when the British Government was offering 5 per cent. stock could scarcely have been justified. The present valuation basis—namely, the O.M.C. Mortality Table combined with O.M. net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest—is amply sufficient in the circumstances, especially as additional reserves were made in respect of without profit policies and policies effected under the minimum premium system, the result being that over 19½ per cent. of the premium income was reserved to provide for future expenses and contributions to the surplus.

In this connection it may be pointed out that the accounts for 1916 show that, apart from mortality, which is now an uncertain problem, the sources whence surplus is derived are still abundant. Expenses of management, including commission, and also the considerable special expenditure resulting from the quinquennial investigation, represented only 12·64 of the premium income, which amounted to £422,263, or £14,381 more than in 1915. This implies that the loading available for profit is equal to about 7½ per cent. of the office premiums, excluding single premiums—a proportion which is more liberal than in most cases. Moreover, the average rate of interest earned—£4 17s. 1d. per cent. on the total funds invested and uninvested, before income tax had been deducted—was satisfactory, the net return being slightly in excess of 4 per cent. A margin of over 1 per cent. beyond the assumed rate of 3 per cent. was consequently possessed, and this, on funds amounting to £6,090,727, meant a contribution to the surplus of over £60,000 for the year. In regard to investments, again, the position of the society seems to be thoroughly sound, seeing that on 31 December last the terminable securities stood in the books at a figure less by over £250,000 than the amount due at maturity, while the margin in question was materially increased by the conversion operations undertaken in connection with our latest War Loan.

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

THE distinctive system of life insurance introduced by the founders of the Scottish Provident Institution in 1837, and since copied by several offices, has so frequently been described as probably to leave nothing fresh to be said. Most persons who take an interest in the subject of thrift are aware that a policy taken out under this scheme does not begin to share in the surplus until such time as the premiums, if accumulated with compound interest at 4 per cent., would have amounted to the sum assured. Thus the contract obtained by the assured is one giving him the right to deferred participation in profits, the period of deferment depending upon the amount of the annual premium paid. It is also generally known that the tontine principle, which implies speculation, is essential to the successful working of the scheme, as otherwise it would be impossible to give those members who survive their period of deferment any advantage. In other words, the policy-holder who, unfortunately, dies before such period is reached pays somewhat more than non-profit rates

for an assurance which, in his case, does not give participation in the surplus. This characteristic of the system has occasionally been criticised by writers who consider that speculation, however mild, is wrong, but they appear to have entirely overlooked one aspect of the question.

At first sight there is much difference between the "man who gains" and the "man who loses"—to borrow the favourite expression. But in the case of the Scottish Provident policies is there such an individual as a man who loses? There is not, and there never will be. Every member stands to gain, and the only distinction is that, owing to the uncertainty of mortality, some will ultimately gain a little more than others. What is the actual position of the so-called loser—the man who is called away before his policy has participated in the surplus? He will have paid for a number of years premiums probably not more than 10 per cent. in excess of the yearly amount which would have been paid for an ordinary non-participating contract giving no right to anything but the sum assured at death, or at some specified future date or previous death. Very little will, therefore, have been risked in order to secure a policy giving, say, a four to one chance of sharing in the profits.

Let us now see how the Scottish Provident scheme works. At age thirty-six next birthday the yearly premium for an assurance of £1,000 payable at death is £5. When ten premiums have been paid the holder of the policy will have parted with £50, but in the office calculations he will be credited with £312, the difference being the compound interest realised on his ten consecutive payments of £25 each. In the event of death during this period the sum paid to the legal representatives of the assured in excess of the amount contributed would be from £750 to £1,000, according to the actual date of death.

Suppose another ten years passes. The premiums paid will then have amounted to £500, and the sum credited in the participation account to £774. During this period, therefore, the estate would benefit by the death of the assured to the extent of between £500 and £750, and the investment, from a monetary point of view, would prove an excellent one.

The LATEST FEATURE IN LIFE ASSURANCE

A GUARANTEED ANNUAL BONUS OF £3 PER CENT.

Under Whole Life (Limited Payment)
:: and Endowment Assurances ::

APPLY for ATTRACTIVE PROSPECTUS,
GIVING FULL PARTICULARS, TO

WESLEYAN & GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Principal Office: BIRMINGHAM

London Branch Office:

Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, E.C.

ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDS £1,150,000
CLAIMS PAID EXCEED £8,500,000

**Assets exceed
£2,500,000**



BY APPOINTMENT.

**Claims Paid,
Over £9,000,000**

GENERAL

ACCIDENT FIRE AND LIFE

ASSURANCE CORPORATION

Established 1885

(LIMITED)

WAR ECONOMY.

In consequence of the War, the cost of building material and labour has increased nearly 50 per cent. All owners of property should therefore increase their Fire insurances; this they can do at little or no extra cost by taking a **Fire Bonus Policy** with this Corporation, and thus effect a saving of 20 per cent. of each premium.

PARTICULARS ON RECEIPT OF POST CARD AT EITHER OF THE UNDERMENTIONED OFFICES

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Liberal Benefits and Conditions. Low Premiums.

LIFE ASSURANCE

Three Popular Policies with various options.

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

CHIEF OFFICES:

GENERAL BUILDINGS, PERTH, SCOTLAND; GENERAL BUILDINGS, ALDWYCH, LONDON

General Manager - F. NORIE-MILLER, J.P.

NOTE.—The Bonds of the Corporation are accepted by all Departments of His Majesty's Government.

London and Manchester Assurance Company, Ltd.

INCORPORATED 1869 UNDER ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

Allied with National Amalgamated Approved Society for National (Health) Insurance.

Chief Office : 50 FINSBURY SQ., LONDON, E.C.2

Yearly Premium Income exceeds £800,000

Funds exceed - - - £1,600,000

ATTRACTIVE INDUSTRIAL AND ORDINARY TABLES. LIFE AND
ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED

Claims Paid exceed - - - £4,000,000

PROMPT SETTLEMENTS. AMPLE SECURITY FOR POLICY-HOLDERS.

Five years later the premium payments would only have increased to £625, or £375 less than the sum assured; but by that time the premiums, accumulated at 4 per cent. interest, would amount to about £1,083, and the policy would already have become entitled to its share of the surplus—namely, all bonuses which would be added at the end of twenty-three years, and annually thereafter. The amount of these bonuses is, of course, a matter for conjecture, but the past experience of the institution indicates that they would add substantially to the £1,000 originally assured. This, however, is not the point which it is most important to make clear—namely, that in no possible circumstances can the return on one of these policies be less than the whole of the premiums paid accumulated at 4 per cent. compound interest, while in at least ninety-five out of every hundred cases the investment would be certain to prove much more remunerative.

STANDARD LIFE.

CONSIDERABLY less new business has been transacted by the Standard Life Assurance Company since the war began, Hungary and Belgium—two formerly important fields—having been entirely closed, while difficulties have necessarily been experienced in other countries where branches or agencies existed. The volume of transactions has, nevertheless, remained large, and last year 1,512 policies for sums amounting to £1,081,526—about £30,000 more than in 1914-15—were completed. Some improvement in this respect was therefore obtained, and it may be added that the relative new premiums also showed a satisfactory increase. A new business of the dimensions stated is, however, insufficient for the needs of the company, and the total premium income of £892,075 raised last year was again substantially less than in the preceding period. Recent accounts have, as a matter of fact, been dominated by the unparalleled conditions brought about by the war, and when peace is restored the enterprising management will have to start rebuilding from an appreciably lower level—so far as premium receipts and consideration for annuities are in question.

Although this is unfortunately undeniable, it can with equal truth be said that the current accounts are not at all discouraging. In 1914-15, when the last quinquennial period ended, the life assurance and annuity fund remained practically unchanged in amount before provision had been made for depreciation. Last year, again, the final result was almost precisely similar, as at £13,443,895 the fund showed an increase of about one thousand pounds. In this respect the company is therefore still able to hold its own; indeed, the gain in resources would have been considerable had not the consideration for annuities granted showed a sudden decrease from £69,677 to £30,528, and had not income-tax absorbed £66,875, against £29,852 in the preceding year.

In normal circumstances expansion would thus have occurred. It is therefore obvious that the Standard Life must have prospered in other ways last year. It did so. Claims by death, which had amounted to £630,924 in 1913, before war broke out, and to £746,964 and £820,276 in the two succeeding years, contracted to £763,883 in 1915-16, and something like £17,000 was saved in actual expenses of management, apart from commission—a charge which necessarily depends upon the volume of business transacted and in force. In the matter of expenditure a much sounder position is therefore possessed. Since 1913 the management expenses—a dead weight on every business—have been reduced by over £26,000, or by 16·476 per cent.; and it has further to be remembered that in one important direction rebuilding operations will be commenced from a much higher plane. Between 15 November 1913 and 15 November 1916 the life funds, as written down, showed a decrease of £34,809; but, on the other hand, the interest revenue (gross) had increased from £577,923 to £633,348 and from £565,510 to £566,472, after the income-tax authorities had been settled with.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL.

MANAGEMENTS of offices transacting ordinary life assurance business have latterly been more or less compelled to mark time. Owing to the difficulties created by the war an energetic propaganda has been impossible, and the absence of this stimulating influence has unquestionably been the cause of some part of the apparent scarcity of new business. In a lesser degree the ordinary branches of our great industrial assurance companies have

similarly been affected. Men of military age and in good health could not be accepted for life assurance at ordinary rates, and this has militated against the completion of new transactions. A fair amount of business has, nevertheless, been obtained, and the premium incomes of these branches, although no notable progress has been made, have continued to expand, and funds have also been steadily accumulated.

The performance of the Wesleyan and General Assurance Society during the last three years may be given as an illustration. For 1913, when the volume of new premiums had been ample for a number of years, the ordinary branch reported a premium income of £211,501, to which had to be added £36,672 derived from interest on investments and fines, whereas the corresponding amounts received in 1916 were £236,550 and £43,407. A substantial advance had, therefore, resulted from the operations, although the charge for income-tax had in the meantime increased from £1,928 to £14,138, and the new premiums had greatly diminished. In the case of the funds the progress secured was even more encouraging, as £324,364 was added to the total, after sums amounting to £54,000 had been transferred to reserve funds.

This department, which was in sound condition in 1913, does not seem to have been greatly affected by the war, except in so far as new business was concerned. Death claims necessarily increased both in 1915 and 1916, but not to such an extent as to cause anxiety; and at the recent annual investigation the tests applied to the contracts in force were as stringent as before.

In some respects, no doubt, the society had lost ground, but any impairment that had occurred during the three years was obviously slight, and was probably more than made good by reduced expenditure and the greater freedom which had been obtained in the choice of investments. Last year the average net rate of interest realised only reflected to a small extent the benefits which will ultimately result from the special Act of Parliament recently obtained. Most of the improvement has still to be secured, but recent changes made in the investments should add materially to the net earnings, and consequently to the surplus as well.

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1828.

The Annual Report for the year ending 15th
November, 1916, shows:—

New Assurances accepted - £1,260,000
Total Funds - £13,580,000
Rate of Interest earned - £4 : 15 : 5%

WAR LOAN ASSURANCE

THE STANDARD has a special scheme
to assist persons who have borrowed to
invest in War Stock and may experience
difficulty in meeting their obligations in
connection therewith.

Write for Leaflet RR 18.

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO.,

3, George Street, EDINBURGH (Head Office).

83, King William Street,
London, E.C. 4.

3, Pall Mall East,
London, S.W. 1.



**ASSETS
EXCEED
£14,800,000**

**CLAIMS
PAID OVER
£86,000,000**

FIRE · LIFE · ACCIDENT · MARINE

Annuities, Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Fidelity Guarantee,
Motor Car, Plate Glass, Personal Accident, Workmen's
Compensation, Sickness, Live Stock, Loss of Profits, etc.

Head Office: 1 Dale St., Liverpool. London, Chief Office: 1 Cornhill, E.C.

ESTABLISHED 1871.

The Confederation Life Association

**gives the absolute security afforded by the
Canadian Insurance Laws.**

FUNDS — £4,350,000

**Its policies contain absolute guarantees as to
loans and surrender values obtainable year
by year. BEST OFFICE FOR ANNUITIES.**

Extract from Actuary's Report.—"I am pleased to be able to report
that the dividends (bonuses) apportioned to and payable to policies
completing their quinquennial periods in the year 1916, show an
advancement over those of the previous year."

Chief Office for the United Kingdom:

**TEMPLE BAR HOUSE, 23-28, FLEET STREET
LONDON, E.C.**

Double your holding of
Victory Loan
without further outlay

BY INVESTING YOUR
DIVIDENDS IN A

Prudential War Stock Dividend Policy

*Particulars of this attractive new
scheme may be obtained from*

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED
142 HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C. 1

or from any of its Agents

Take, for instance, the addresses sent by the Croatian Diet to the Emperor of Austria, expressing loyalty. Is "A Lover of Italy" absolutely ignorant of the state of affairs existing since the beginning of the war in Croatia, Dalmatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina? Is he aware that over 200,000 of their population is interned? That 5,260 families have been banished, and their property confiscated? Does "A Lover of Italy" know that thousands of them have been hanged? If he is acquainted with these facts can he, or anyone else, be surprised at the Croatian Diet acting as they did, feeling the noose of the rope all the time around their necks?

But what seems to puzzle "A Lover of Italy" is the identity of the delegates who call upon Croats, Dalmatians, Slovenes, and Bosnians to break with the Hapsburgs and attach themselves to the kingdom of Serbia. Those delegates are the representatives of the 200,000 interned and of the 5,260 banished families. They are the representatives of over a million emigrants to America—people who emigrated to escape the yoke of Austria-Hungary, of whom 100,000 have just expressed the wish to join the American Army as soon as they declare war with Austria (see the "Evening Telegram", New York, 16 May). They are the representatives of the 35,000 Croats, Dalmatians, and Slovenes, who, at the beginning of the war, volunteered to join the heroic Serbian Army in fighting against the Hapsburgs, but who found, to their disappointment, that no means of transport was available. They are the representatives of many thousands who joined the British Colonial Forces—Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, and South Africans. They are the representatives of over 250,000 deserters from the Austro-Hungarian Army into Russia, who refused to fight for the Hapsburg, and of whom, up to December last, 100,000 have volunteered to fight against the Hapsburgs, and have fought most heroically on the Dobrudja front. Last, but not least, they are the representatives of the majority of the people of Croatia, Dalmatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina—people who are not always in agreement with every action of the Croatian Diet—people who scarcely dare to breathe their opinions; but who, with heavy heart and closed fist, await their liberation and unity with their brother Serbians.

With regard to the Dalmatians in particular. They are divided politically into three different sections. One pro-Austrian, one pro-Italian, and one for unity with Serbia. Now if Austria-Hungary should become dismembered, surely the best and fairest way to settle the Dalmatian question would be by vote.

Let the people of Dalmatia choose their future destiny themselves, and, if by vote, the betting quotations would be as follows: 100 to 1 on unity with Serbia, 10 to 1 against pro-Austrians, and 100 to 1 against pro-Italians.

On the other hand, though, all these people who will be liberated by the Allies can safely leave their future in their hands, to be decided by the Allies.

Yours faithfully,

D. JANITSCH.

AMERICA AND ENGLAND.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Well, we are Allies at last. You cannot know the relief that we, the real Americans, are feeling, even when we count the cost. Even I am not to go scot free. My dearly-loved nephew, son of the house where I am now staying, a splendid big boy of twenty-one, is off to camp next week. He has a first lieutenant's commission, and is waiting for a chance to get to the front. He is almost like my own, and I can't see him go without a terrible pull at my heart-strings.

I wish you and others of your countrymen could see the awakening of America. We are being roused, and the spread of patriotism is a glorious sight. I don't know yet what my "bit" is going to be. Red Cross work I have been doing for long, of course. My husband is not eligible as yet for service at the front. They are not taking men with dependants for the present, and his eyesight is very

defective, besides having a right arm which, owing to a bad smash, does not do all the things it should. He will do something, of course, but I don't know yet what it will be. I don't want you to think of him as a slacker.

The President is trying his best to pass the Selective Draft Bill, and I hope he will succeed. He is obstinate, as we all know, and I am glad of it this time. You have read his war message to Congress, of course. Wasn't it a wonder?

I hope people in England are not so misguided as to believe that everyone in America is prosperous, just because a few have made war fortunes. The country has not made any money. There is no unemployment, to be sure, and as I said some few have made immense fortunes all right, but the salaried men, and surely they are a representative class, are worse off than ever before. Salaries have not been raised and the prices have doubled.

On the other hand, it is inspiring to see the way in which these very rich men are waking up to-day to a sense of their responsibilities. Businesses are being operated without profit for the benefit of the Government. Factories and plants of all kinds are being turned right over to patriotic uses. Yes, I think America may do something yet. You know how I have always loved England, and I am so proud that we are Allies at last officially and openly. The state of mind has always existed, but the delay in proclaiming it has done much to strengthen and solidify the feeling throughout the country. Wilson has been slow, but it has been for the best after all.

Yours, etc.,

AN AMERICAN WOMAN.

REPRISALS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Cocoa Tree Club, St. James's Street, S.W.

SIR,—Reprisals cannot be defended on Christian principles, but, then, neither can war. The Christian ethic is contained in the precept, "Resist not evil". But were a man in this Christian country to act upon that principle, he would undoubtedly be assailed with the cry, "He hath a devil and is mad; why hear ye him?" "The servant is not greater than his lord."

How, then, is this war, which has my whole-hearted and unfaltering support, to be justified? I certainly have never attempted to justify it on Christian principles, and I never shall. I should be sorry indeed to endeavour to drag down Christianity to the level of man's imperfections. Christianity has nothing to do with war. As far as the East is from the West, so far is war from Christianity. The Red Cross, referred to by one of your correspondents, is not to the point. The mission of the Red Cross is not to wage war, but to repair the ravages of war—a very different thing.

The only principle, I am convinced, upon which this, or, indeed, any war, can be logically defended is the principle contained in the much-maligned maxim, "The end", if a good one, "justifies the means". This, however, is an extremely dangerous principle, and can only safely be acted upon in exceedingly rare cases, of which, however, I am persuaded this war is one. But even this principle, if acted upon with the greatest caution, as of course it should be, does not, I think, admit of reprisals, for reprisals are neither Christian, moral, just, nor politic.

I am, Sir,

Faithfully yours,

A. KIPLING COMMON.

ART AND THE COMMONWEALTH.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

London.

SIR,—There has been opened in Cape Town recently the Michaelis Gallery of paintings by Dutch masters of the seventeenth century. The collection, as you will recall, was formed by the late Sir Hugh Lane, in response to

wishes expressed to him in South Africa when he was working for the foundation of the Modern Gallery at Johannesburg. The collection was purchased from him outright by Mr. Max Michaelis, who desired to associate his own name with it as a gift to the country in which he had spent his happiest years. The pictures were shipped from England last August. They are now permanently hung in the Old Town House, Cape Town, a fine example of seventeenth-century architecture, restored and adapted to receive them. The opening was informal, but notwithstanding this the attendance has surpassed any figure anticipated. The idea of this collection was South Africa's own.

Sir, an opportunity will shortly present itself for the British Government to supplement the efforts South Africa is making for education. On the slopes of Grotte Schuur, the home of Cecil Rhodes and the cradle of Imperialism, the University of Cape Town is rising. The proposal I want to put forward is that a gift might be made to the Dominion of selected works of art, in the name of the King. The significance of such a gift would rest with our recognition of South African aspirations. The gift might at first assume the shape of a set of Turner water-colours for the new University. Thus another spiritual link with England would be made. Later a permanent loan might be arranged of such things as Tuscan and lustre wares, Dutch pieces of furniture and objects of art, for the inspiration of the industrial crafts.

My suggestion presents no difficulties which would not almost be met by the one really popular clause of the recent National Gallery Bill, and it will not be disputed that we owe to South Africa signal recognition of her beautiful loyalty.

Yours faithfully,
T. MARTIN WOOD.
(Editor of the Catalogue
of the Michaelis Gallery.)

WOMEN IN THE WAR.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.
17, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.

SIR,—In your Notes in a recent issue you say that the energies of women in the war have aided their demand for a vote more than all their peace-time outrages. May I be allowed respectfully to point out that this remark must be confined to the Suffragettes, a small minority of their sex, amounting possibly to about half a million all told, who alone demand the vote, and that the remainder—say 13½ millions of women of full age—are, so far as appears, out of sympathy with this demand; and many of them so dislike the idea of having the vote forced upon them that they have banded themselves into a league to oppose this very thing? The Suffragettes have taken very good care to advertise themselves in connection with their war activities, whereas the great majority of women doing war work, including the members of the above league, are not actuated by motives of self-advertisement, but simply of patriotism. Neither this nor any other Parliament has any right to force votes on women against their wishes and without consulting the electors of the country.

In another Note you refer to men not giving up their seats in public vehicles to women. This appears to me to be an indication of what is likely to happen all round in the relations of the sexes, so long as a certain section of women claim an impossible equality with men in all respects. They cannot have it both ways.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD PAGDEN.

THE PARTY TRUCE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.
56, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

SIR,—Mr. Runciman's conception of a Party Truce, as expounded in his address to the National Union of Liberal

Clubs at Bradford, on 20 May, is illuminating to students of modern politics.

The Government of which Mr. Runciman was a member did not scruple after the outbreak of war to break the Party Truce by placing Home Rule on the Statute Book, yet it appears that if the Government should dare to infringe certain "eternal principles" which are the "essence of Liberalism" it must reckon with Mr. Runciman.

In what Liberalism consists is perhaps not very clear to those who live outside the charmed circle of the cult, but they were once formulated as "Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform". Peace is dead, and Retrenchment—which helped to slay it—is dead and buried. Reform alone survives of the unhappy Trinity.

All reforms are dear to the Liberal heart: all except one, a reform of our fiscal policy; this Mr. Runciman cannot away with. Yet surely he and Mr. Asquith accepted the resolutions passed at the Paris Conference—if not with enthusiasm, at least with resignation; and did not these same resolutions involve a most drastic reform of our fiscal policy? Can it be that the "greatest of living Yorkshiremen" and his adoring disciple conspired together to adopt these tender infants and to put them out to nurse with a baby farmer to die of neglect? It is difficult to believe that he "who has maintained the status of public life through the whole of his Premiership" could be guilty of such a political crime; yet it looks singularly like it, for the poor bantlings have not been heard of since their birth a year ago; and now one of the foster fathers tells his "Tariff Reform friends" that "the first principles of economics have not been changed".

Do these first principles preclude the imposition of duties for purposes other than revenue? If so, how are we to be protected against the flow of cheap manufactured articles which will pour in after the war? And, if not, how does Mr. Runciman propose to stem the flood without departing from these first principles? Or are we to understand that his economic soul so yearns for corpse-made glycerine and other cheap German goods, that he is prepared to admit them free of duty as before? Will Mr. Runciman explain?

Yours faithfully,
F. D. FOWLER.

SLAUGHTERING THE PROTECTORS OF OUR FOOD.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—I rejoice that your correspondent, "E. W.", has written a letter of protest against that cruel and unjust war against our birds which has again been lately revived. This ignorant outcry against these defenceless creatures is always supported by mere ignorance and prejudice, and the very much greater amount of good they do is ignored. This has been proved over and over again, but nothing seems to avail to check this cruel lust for destruction, and many of our beautiful wild birds are becoming rarer and rarer. I trust "E. W.'s" able letter may have some good effect.

Yours sincerely,
H. GOLDING (Lieut.-Col.).

AN IMAGIST.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

13 June 1917.

"Steeped in the works of Maeterlinck." Imagism the same thing as symbolism (under correction).

Sell it! Stow it!

Too bad, after all these years, you old fogies, terrorised; terrorised by the great name of Macmillan into reviewing a book with which I am connected.

I pity you—from the depths I pity you.

Yours, etc.,
EZRA POUND.

A SMOKER'S COMPLAINT.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

26 May 1917.

SIR,—There are probably at this minute only a negligible number of smokers in the country who are not saying just what "M.B." says to you in your current issue. I fear we cannot expect the present "authorities" (so fond of and capable in petty interferences, so invertebrate in larger matters!) to see fair play dealt out to us smokers; and, if I am right in this, it seems to follow that the only thing for us to do is, every man of us, to stop smoking for a week or two—which is, I fear, altogether too much to expect of ourselves! If we could, however, do this we should bring the vendors of tobacco cringing to us with surprising and satisfactory celerity.

Your obedient servant,

H. M. P.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The explanation asked for by "M.B." in a recent issue seems very simple. The increase of taxation naturally causes decrease of consumption. The tobaccoist, being human, wishes to recoup himself for the resulting loss of trade. So he puts a price on his wares that will cover the extra tax, *plus* what he is likely to lose by reduction of consumption. I myself, being a poor man, have cut a ring off the bowls of all my pipes. Result: my consumption is reduced from one pound to half a pound per month. I smoke the same number of pipes per day as before, only they don't last so long. My bill remains about what it was before the war, and the extra taxation is helping to beat the Germans.

Yours, etc.,

MUS.BAC.

IRELAND.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Prestone, Firle, Sussex.

SIR,—It appears from the Convention that the Government are about to tackle the question of Home Rule in Ireland. In a way this is perhaps satisfactory as showing that they consider themselves in a position to deal with the inevitable civil war; but what a pity that they cannot make use of the bellicose instincts of the inhabitants of that much misguided and misunderstood island to fight the enemies of their own and our own existence.

Yours faithfully,

HARRY SCARLETT.

MEN SEATED, WOMEN STANDING.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Lyceum Club,

128, Piccadilly, W.1.

29 May 1917.

SIR,—I like your sympathetic last paragraph under "Notes of the Week" *re* women in trains, but I much demur at your conclusions. It is not the case that men remain seated while women stand. It is the exception when they do so. I have neither youth nor beauty, yet I never have and never am allowed to stand when men remain seated. It is to be remembered that even men are sometimes terribly tired after a hard day's work, and there are numerous instances where men need a rest even more than women. I have seen many a tired man stand up and force a woman to sit when she was better able to stand herself. Equality in other things should bring equality in consideration.

Yours, etc.,

ADA SHURMER.

REVIEWS.

THE SOUND OF ENGLISH.

"An English Pronouncing Dictionary." By Daniel Jones. Dent. 6s. net.

(REVIEWED BY W. H. CHESSEON.)

THE immortality of thoughts may not depend upon alphabets, but one's mode of access to thoughts so often consists of the silent symbols of language that our familiar alphabet seems to a multitude of people almost as sacred as light.

And yet an alphabet is only a mechanism to the vast majority of readers, a work of utilitarian art. The symbolic intention of the shapes of our letters is unknown to most "educated" people, though perhaps even the ignorant spontaneously notice the appropriateness of the serpentine form of the sibilant S; but only the folklorist can be expected to recognise in L a recumbent lioness whose hindquarters have disappeared, and there is no moralist severe enough to accuse the public of ingratitude for neglecting the birthday of Salvius, the reputed inventor of the letter G. In the popular mind the alphabet is simply a thing unalterable, because its alteration would alter the immeasurable surface of literature. Although the letters are incapable of adequately representing all the sounds of our speech, although the order in which they are committed to memory ignores acoustic relationships—separating B from P and F from V, for instance—the alphabet is capable of exhibiting to every human eye even the criticism which disparages it, and is learned by children so thoroughly that its sound in their heads is like that of a tune.

It is quite obvious, however, that the effect of the alphabet in publishing sound as distinct from sense would be much improved if we had symbols for at least thirty-five elementary sounds. Indeed, we go so far as to say that every attempt at phonetic writing based on our alphabet unenriched is foredoomed to failure. A good alphabet would provide signs for a as sounded in *ah*, *awe*, and *an*, for e as sounded in *end*, for i as sounded in *in*, for o as sounded in *owl*, *to*, and *on*, for u as sounded in *us*, for ch as sounded in *church*, for th as sounded in *thy* and *thigh*. If the names of the letters g and w were altered to "gay" and "way", their only desirable duties would be clearly indicated. C might conveniently supply the symbol needed for ch, leaving K to work in the "counting-house" as well as the "kitchen". In rapid writing it is possible to cross one's "t's" and dot one's "i's", and it would not require the art of the calligraphist to use as many as four overhead signs, or "accents": the horizontal line, cross, demi-cross or v, and the endless finite line or circle are all recognisable in the imperfection of hurried script as well as in the perfection in which artistry can delineate them. Our language had the hardihood to discard the Anglo-Saxon sign for *th*, called "thorn", and there is no reason, except the impossibility of producing a generally public enthusiasm for rational spelling, why "thorn" should not come back to the alphabet with new brothers and sisters.

Is this the dream of an extremist? Certainly not of an extremist, for the practical working of a larger alphabet, complying with the requirements of the present writer's phonetic aspirations, would far from realise the ideal of the International Phonetic Association or, by inference from his English Pronouncing Dictionary, of its learned assistant secretary, Mr. Daniel Jones. To begin with, the expert phonetician hears with a refinement unattained by other men. If the present writer, uninfluenced by respect for history and family predilection, were to write the name "Jones" to satisfy his ear, it would appear as "Jonz", it being remarked that his unaccented vowel would invariably have the quality of the sound thereof when named in a recitation of the alphabet. But in that case only the dulcitude of Mr. Jones would prevent his looking upon the perpetrator of this effort to harmonise sound and spelling with the contempt which rhymesters deserve who seriously rhyme "sister" and "vista". For

Mr. Jones would spell his surname "d3ounz" (and the printer is begged to produce for the second letter of this masterpiece of reformed spelling a kind of 3, ending below the line, and resembling, if not copying, the old English form of g). In the aural perception of an initial d in the sound of "Jones" the spirit of the Higher Phonetics abashes the ordinary man. We learn more about it on discovering that r, except as an initial, is so little heard by the scientific phonetician that his rendering of the noun "bird" is "bə:d", and of "cur" "kə:". And although the asterisk, frequently appearing in words ending with r, acknowledges that it is not mute in all circumstances, Mr. Jones's researches show that battalions of the letter, of whose rolling so much has been alleged, are in a pitiable state of visible silence.

Perhaps we should assure the reader that Mr. Jones's book is as much a work of observation and record as any volume of travel or history. He and the Association whose alphabet he uses work to give the written word the power to communicate a faithful idea of its correspondent in living speech, and by considering their subject in relation not only to English, but to all languages, they have developed an alphabet of cosmopolitan significance utterly unsuitable for the daily Press and ordinary communications, but admirable for its ability to make the eye the informer of the ear. If one takes a limited view of phonetics, if one desires, as the present writer does, that his alphabet should by the very names of its letters simplify orthography as much as possible, one can only resent the transformation of the long pure a of "fate" into ei, of the long pure o of "hope" into ou; and if one is chary of over-refinement, and anxious to avoid ridicule, one will hesitate before listening so attentively as to hear the word "tune" pronounced "tju:n", even though j has the sound of the German j in "ja". The difficulty of accurate phonetics can be better understood if we reflect that speech is idea vocalised, which passes through two fallible material instruments before its acceptance by the intelligence of a listener. An instance may be given. The present reviewer, who hears the word "Richmond" exceptionally often, needed an address. A beautiful stranger, obviously of considerable culture, gave it him. He heard it as "Richmond Gardens". He knew them not, and asked for "Richmond Gardens" of a small boy, who directed him. Ultimately he found Ridgmount Gardens, in whose neighbourhood Richmond was a sound instinctively received as "Ridgmout", just as for another local reason Ridgmount had sounded like "Richmond". It is very probable that the lamentable habit of transforming names of places, called "Anglicisation", "Gallicisation", etc., according to the nationality of the offending traveller, arose from the mishearing which is partly the result of an instinctive inventiveness adding to a received fragment.

Reviewing by digression is occasionally a justifiable way of dealing critically with a book; but Mr. Jones's dictionary deserves at least one paragraph all to itself. He has endeavoured to reproduce the pronunciation of 49,690 words by "families of Southern English persons whose men-folk have been educated at the great public boarding-schools". We note with surprise that only one pronunciation of "contemplate", "crystalline", and "demonstrate" is given, the accentuation on the penultimate being ignored in each case. Dr. Johnson, who decides that "contemplate" should be accented on the second syllable, notes that the word "seems to have been once accented on the first". In Byron's poems we find both pronunciations. It is an illustration of the vagaries of pronunciation that the Johnsonian pronunciation of "demonstrate" is rather rare (though Gladstone used it), whereas no educated person accentuates the first syllable of "remonstrate". "Crystalline" is accented on the second syllable in lines by Milton and Shelley, but Shelley also accents it on the first.

In conclusion, we think Mr. Jones deserves the applause of scholars for his heroic exertions on behalf

of our mother-tongue; and if, in the presence of much that may seem but the record of an inevitable imperfection in utterance, the smile forms on his reader's face, it should not be forgotten that the comic spirit is of itself a vicious critic of the achievements of men of science.

AT THE FRONT.

"Letters from France." By C. E. W. Bean. With a Map and eight Plates. Cassell. 5s. net.

"My '75. Reminiscences of a Gunner in 1914." From the French of Paul Lintier. Heinemann. 3s. 6d. net.

"Mud and Khaki: Sketches from Flanders and France." By Vernon Bartlett. Simpkin Marshall. 3s. 6d. net.

THE war has been with us now so long that we have learnt a good deal of its manoeuvres, heroisms, and surprises. The men of ink have made millions think of the infinite preparations and splendid performances that lie behind a simple phrase in a dispatch. Still, there is always room for so well equipped, modest, and sensible a writer as the War Correspondent for the Commonwealth of Australia. In calling him "sensible" we mean that he has the excellent sense not to indulge in the overstrained sentiment and heroics which some think necessary for the public. He says of his Australians:

"They are not heroes; they do not want to be thought or spoken of as heroes. They are just ordinary Australians doing their particular work as their country would wish them to do it. And pray God Australians in days to come will be worthy of them!"

He emphasises the point at the end of his book by the statement that "the name 'an Anzac' now bears with it in the force the suggestion of a man who rather approves of that sort of 'swank'; and there are few of them".

Great deeds, in fact, do not need writing up or swathing in exaggerated sentiment. The simple, easy style of these letters shows us clearly what the Australians have done in France, feats which would have been thought incredible a few years ago. It is an incessant wonder that anyone can come alive out of such a death-trap as Pozières and many another village held by all the resources of German military science. The picture between p. 112 and 113 of a main street and a church in Pozières shows the absolute removal of all signs of human habitation. The place is not simply squalid: it has ceased to exist. A few charred tree stumps only reveal to a vivid imagination what Nature was before war came and destroyed her soothing mantle of green, leaving the bare and tortured earth. It is a sheer desolation that no words can picture. The men who won and held such a place have done and endured things to which the feats of an ancient Paladin are nothing. We realise from one of these letters what a casual raid on the German trenches means. Those who achieved it "had to get through a ditch full of water to their necks, then some trip-wire, then a knee-deep entanglement, then a ditch full of rusty wire, then some 'French' coils of barbed wire, then more wire knee deep, with trip-wire after that. Moreover, the enemy's artillery fire was heavy. They simply went over the enemy's trench for a few minutes and killed with their bombs about a dozen Germans, and brought in as prisoners those who were left wounded. Every man of their own who was left wounded they carried carefully back through the tempest in No Man's Land. The Germans had spent at least as much artillery ammunition as we had, and in spite of all the noise they had done wonderfully little damage. We put a dozen of them out of action till the end of the war—a dozen that our men saw and knew of; and they may have put out of action five of ours".

In face of such affairs we can understand the scorn of an earlier letter directed against a merchant who runs the risk of losing his fine business if the war continues. The British Empire is not too ready "to disturb its daily life, alter its daily habits, to throw

on the scrap-heap its sacred individualism, and do and live for the national cause". The Germans have brought all their brains and resolution to bear on this problem. That is what many people in this country fail to perceive. So we welcome the letter entitled "The Coming Struggle: our Task" no less than the exciting records of actual war. When he is not fighting the Australian has a dry and ready humour which is worth attention. It appears in the nicknames of the successive drafts which have come from the other side of the world to fight for the cause of the Old Country. The "Tourists" came first, people out to see what the adventure was like. The next shipment were the "Dinkums", the "true" men, followed by the "Super-dinkums". Then arrived the "War Babies", and the "Chocolate Soldiers", and after them the "Hard Thinkers", who thought very hard before they came, and last of all the "Neutrals". But this is all chaff. The latest draft is as good as the first when it is tested. It ranks with the old regiments, "old" indeed in experience, for they have seen more severe fighting than some whose record goes back for many years.

"Men who were through the first fortnight at Pozieres need never be ashamed to compare their experiences with those of any soldiers in the world, for it is the literal truth that there has never in history been a harder battle fought."

The Australian public does not know of these things in detail; we cannot give to the Germans for a penny or a few shillings information which may cost hundreds of lives. But history will tackle these feats some day, and though the author of these letters modestly denies any connection with Clio, his true record will be an essential document for her votaries. Meanwhile, we may note the significant report of conversations with German prisoners. They have a longing for the war to end, but they are not giving it up just yet. "They would go on with the war all next year, even if a million more men are killed; they will bring back all the wounded and the sick if necessary."

The German docility or patriotism—call it what you will—is a serious factor in the war, and it is no use to go on ignoring or underrating it.

The French author of "My '75", Paul Lintier, tried commerce, the study of law, and authorship before he enlisted at twenty in 1913 in the artillery. He was killed in action in the March of last year! His diary well deserves to rank among the striking "Soldiers' Tales of the Great War" which Mr. Heinemann has given us. It is the work of an acutely observant and sensitive mind. On one page the author puts down horrors and outrages with downright realism; on another he reveals the power of rumour or the glory of a country luxuriant in natural beauty. But the main impression of the book is that of a single line of Fitzgerald's "Omar":

"What, without asking, hither hurried whence!"

The gunner is shifted from place to place. He does not even know what execution he has done. He wonders in this early stage of the war if the English are really assisting, why no one holds back the Germans, and whether the troops he sees vaguely in the distance are friends or enemies. The candour of the writer is remarkable. He puts down relentlessly his moods of suspense and fear, his rapid flight from doctors who proposed to amputate his shrapnel-wounded thumb to another hospital. The terrible story of the rural population and the enemy is told again in a few vivid conversations. The effects of warfare on himself and his companions are noted in an interesting passage:

"It is astonishing how quickly instinct develops in war. All civilisation disappears almost at once, and the relations between man and man become primitively direct. One's first preoccupation is to make oneself respected. This necessity is not implicitly recognised by all, but everyone acts as if he recognised it. Then,

again, the sense of authority becomes transformed. The authority conferred on the captain by his rank diminishes, while that which he owes to his character increases in proportion. Authority has, in fact, but one measure: the confidence of the men in the capability of their officer."

With the gunner not to be visible to the enemy is the incessant preoccupation. When a corporal conducting a refilling wagon rides up on a big white mare the cry is "Dismount! Dismount! You'll get us all killed!" The diary is full of the will to live, to conquer first, but to live. Yet it has, too, its touches of life outside the war, the tall trees in their infinite variety of green shades standing out in clear-cut silhouettes against the pale blue sky, and the return of freshness to the grass in the autumn.

Mr. Bartlett's "Apologia" for writing his book is a little too full of the "modesto-vanetas" discovered by a master of English prose. If he has tried "with but little success" to picture life at the front, why does he publish? He thinks "there is great danger that the hardships of the men in the trenches will too soon be forgotten". That can hardly be in this "none-sparing war", but there are all sorts of tastes, and several sorts of ways of telling the tales of war. Mr. Bartlett's highly coloured sketches may have their audience. He shows a man who was off his head winning the V.C. by a desperate attack, a "knot" with an eyeglass winning a glorious death, and a soldier who had an ineradicable gift for the freedom of the tramp shot for desertion.

The talk of the army and its pleasures is to us the most convincing part of the book. This notice at the entrance of a French regiment's "musical hall" is pleasant: "Entrée pour Messieurs les Poilus. Prix un sourire".

Colour, sentiment, sensation—these things have their value in writing, yet the issues and virtues of war were and are direct, clear, savagely simple. We can go back for over a thousand years and find in four lines of Simonides a massive simplicity that is as true and poignant to-day as it was when the Greek overwhelmed the Persian barbarian: "Through the valour of these men no smoke rose to heaven in the burning of their spacious streets. They chose to leave to their children a city blossoming in freedom, and themselves to fall in the front of the battle".

A NIGHTMARE NOVEL.

"The Quest of Ledger Dunstan." By Alfred Tresidder Sheppard. Duckworth. 6s.

HERE is a remarkable novel, something quite outside the ordinary ruck of fiction, something different, distinctive, startling, thought-compelling, and cataclysmic. Like its predecessor, "The Rise of Ledger Dunstan", to which it is a sequel, it is the work of no ordinary mind. It reveals on every page a strange mentality, morbid curiosity, abnormal perhaps, feverish, passionate, yet sincere. There is an intensity about it that is sometimes almost unbearable, as though a cord must snap somewhere; but in spite of certain repellent qualities, or perhaps because of them, the book has a strange and irresistible fascination—the fascination of the horrible and gruesome. Mr. Alfred Tresidder Sheppard has an equipment such as few writers of fiction of to-day possess. He has immense knowledge of psychology, unusual powers of description, a well-stored memory, and creative force of no small order. His book is almost too closely packed with knowledge, some of it not thoroughly digested, while it also abounds in historic allusions covering a wide range of reading. While the author has a style of his own, a marked originality and personality, he reminds us tantalisingly at times of writers whom perhaps he has closely studied, or to whom the various resemblances may be purely accidental. A realist of realists, he reminds us now of Zola, now of Dickens, now of Balzac, now of the great Russian novelist Dostoevsky, with here and there

touches of Meredith and Mr. H. G. Wells. To say the result is bewildering is to put it very mildly. It is chaotic. The final impression when the last page is reached is of some terrible nightmare. And this is brought about not merely by the matter of the book, but more especially by the manner.

"The Quest of Ledger Dunstan" is in the main a realistic study of a religious madman who believes himself to have sinned the unforgivable sin and to be anti-Christ. Mr. Sheppard has evidently made a close study of various forms of mania, especially of religious mania, and his book is an impassioned plea for reform in our treatment of lunatics, which he asserts is the grossest scandal of our civilisation. "Lunatics are confined and manufactured. In some asylums the filth, the noise, the misery, the monotony would drive any sane man mad within a month. . . . Here, unknown, unregarded, were scores of men who had committed no crime. Sentenced to indefinite imprisonment, forgotten by their friends, slaves to the whim of any boy or country yokel set over them, pestered, maddened, insulted at every turn."

The safeguards that are supposed to exist to prevent the incarceration of sane men are described as totally ineffective and inadequate. "Now and again highly-paid Commissioners, barristers, or doctors pay visits of inspection. Word passes by telephone—from mouth to mouth—the house is set in order; patients are washed and dressed; officials follow the passage of the visitors. 'Any complaints?' A courteous hearing, a suave reply; perhaps, in rare cases, a jotted note. . . . They put the worst cases to bed."

This, of course, is not new. We have had this kind of thing in fiction before, but never, perhaps, have we had so startling, so convincing, and so minute a study of the horror and ugliness of madhouse life. Ledger Dunstan himself, whose career becomes so strangely mixed up with that of the man who believes himself to be anti-Christ, is one of those fantastic and ineffective creatures hovering on the borderland. It is hardly surprising that his wife Mary deserts him on their honeymoon in France when she finds that he will not defend her honour by fighting for her as she wishes. She, too, with her cold logic and perverted common sense, was queer, and although the author rather overdoes her malapropisms, she is a creation that will not be readily forgotten. Almost all the characters in this strange book have their kinks, Winnie, the girl with whom Ledger finds peace and happiness at last being the one notable exception. Mr. Sheppard's interests and sympathies are with the broken men, the lost men, the men who have gone under, the men of genius who, through some fatal flaw of character or disposition, have become outcasts from the world. Towards these his heart goes out, and he has an immense curiosity about their lives, their secrets, their tragedies.

Free will and determinism, who shall decide? But, as one of the saner characters remarks:

"Of course you can help what you do. These chaps seem to me to miss the point of life."

"Oh, and pray what is the point of life?"

"Why, you've jolly well got to go and love people and do things to help them. Then you don't have time to worry about what smashed up Coyne and fellows like him."

And, reading this as a sort of moral, we may claim that Mr. Sheppard, for all his preoccupation with the morbid, is on the side of the angels.

THE POLITICAL BALLAD.

"Political Ballads Illustrating the Administration of Sir Robert Walpole." Edited by Milton Percival, Ph.D. Being Vol. 8 of the Oxford Historical and Literary Studies. Clarendon Press. 8s. 6d. net.

THE strength of the political ballad lay in the fact that it was not merely read, but sung. What the capers are to the sauce, what the squeeze of lemon is to the pancake, that the tune was to the ballad. The

tunes were old friends, familiar to all, from maid of honour to 'prentices. My Uncle Toby, as we all know, "whistled Lilleburlero"; and the next generation sang to that famous air such ballads as the clever "Journalists Displayed" and "Bishopsgate Dogs" of this collection. Other favourite tunes were, "King John and the Abbot", "In the Days of my Youth" (from "The Beggar's Opera"), "To all you ladies now on land", and "A-begging we will go". Let us now turn from the vehicle of production to the thing produced.

Politically the ballad was intended as a solvent to subvert a policy, to upset a Minister; but socially it made for cohesion. Surely it must have diffused a comfortable sense of solidarity to know that the self-same words were being sung and applauded in the street, in the alehouse, in the club, and even, as was frequently the case, at Court; to feel that this jovial and pungent criticism, in which anyone and everyone could bear a part, did away for the time being with conventional distinctions. At such a sensation of solidarity we nowadays arrive most nearly, happily, and appropriately when we sing the National Anthem. The ballad, too, was usually on the popular side of any question; for one that defended Walpole a score assailed him; and when folks shouted out Pulteney's "Britain Excis'd", in defiance of the Minister's hated proposals, they must have felt themselves true and united Britons indeed.

We have called it Pulteney's because Mr. Percival has convinced us that the facility, wit, satire, and ridicule which distinguish this and the other principal anti-Excise ballads reflect the characteristics of that brilliant mind. Again, in that age most political ballads, though not all, were anonymous; for, though a good deal of licence was permitted, unbridled comment and mordant sarcasm might get an avowed author into trouble; while ballad-singers not seldom underwent arrest and punishment. But in the case of "The Honest Jury", a song of triumph over the acquittal of his newspaper, "The Craftsman", on a charge of libel, Pulteney, being for the moment in safe waters, seems to have admitted authorship. Now this ballad is written in the very elaborate measure of "Packington's Pound"; and where we find others to the same tune, with a like brilliancy of style and statement, we shall not be far out in attributing them to the same source. Such, for instance, is "The New Norfolk Ballad", with its telling refrain:

"O Englishmen, Englishmen, look to your Hits,
Let nobody bubble you out of your wits".

As a matter of fact, the quality of the ballads in this collection varies so much that no one would expect them to have emanated from one section of the community only; some were the offspring of the brightest wits of the time—Chesterfield's, Pulteney's, Hervey's—others were composed by mediocre heads, others were frankly and evidently of the street. But all have one quality in common, that of directness; they hit the nail upon the head, whether it be the right nail or not, and that is what appeals to the ordinary plain man, to whom subtlety is abhorrent. No ballad of Walpole's time exercised such a great and undoubted influence upon national destinies as did Wharton's "Lilleburlero" in 1688; but the anti-Excise ballads, following one another like a flight of arrows, unquestionably had a share in effecting the withdrawal of his obnoxious project, and the ballad was among the weapons which at last goaded him into war with Spain, and then drove him from office for his half-hearted direction of it.

With the fall of Walpole began the rapid decline of the political ballad. The chief cause seems to have been the improvement of the Press, with which ballads as purveyors of news could not longer compete. In the great era, too, of England's expansion abroad there was less room and call for domestic diatribes; and it almost seemed as if the ballad could not survive the central object of its attention. There was in the long reign of Walpole, in his methods, and his person-

maid of
all know,
eneration
he clever
Dogs"
"King
Youth"
ou ladies
o". Let
n to the

olvent to
ocially it
iffused a
the self-
d in the
, as was
his jovial
everyone
ing with
ation of
happily,
Anthem.
r side of
e a score
ulteney's
r's hated
true and

Percival
ire, and
principal
of that
political
, though
unbridled
avowed
t seldom
e case of
over the
", on a
in safe
Now this
asure of
others to
nd state-
them to
he New

Hits,
".
is in this
d expect
the com-
brightest
Hervey's
, others
all have
they hit
t nail or
ry plain
ballad of
doubted
harton's
ballads,
ws, un-
thdrawal
s among
var with
his half-

ecline of
to have
a ballads
ete. In
abroad
diatribes;
t survive
s in the
person-

16 June 1917.

The Saturday Review.

DON'T SELL YOUR VICTORY LOAN.

The Prudential Assurance Co.
will enable you to increase
your ultimate holding without
further immediate expense.

Write at once to your Agent, or to
142, HOLBORN BARS,
E.C.1.

DELICIOUS COFFEE RED WHITE & BLUE

FOR BREAKFAST & AFTER DINNER.

In making, use LESS QUANTITY, it being much stronger
than ORDINARY COFFEE.

EASTBOURNE COLLEGE.

Founded 1867. Incorporated 1911.

Excellent modern buildings with Carpentry and Engineering
Workshop. Army Class. O.T.C. Fees moderate and inclusive.
Scholarships in March.—Apply to the Headmaster.



Bell's THREE NUNS Tobacco

Twisted and cut by a special process, dust is
an impossibility. In charging pouch or pipe,
be careful to preserve the strand.

Testing Sample will be forwarded on application to Stephen
Mitchell & Son, Branch of the Imperial Tobacco Co. (of Great
Britain and Ireland), Ltd., Glasgow.

King's Head is Stronger.

Both sold at 10d. per oz.

Cigarettes

(Medium)

5d. for 10,

cardboard boxes of 50, 2/-

Huts Wanted ^{for} the Front Trenches

The CHURCH ARMY

is requested to provide

EIGHTY MORE RECREATION HUTS

AND CLUBS UNDER SHELL FIRE ON THE SOMME FRONT
ALONE, in addition to 60 recently erected there, and Hundreds already
on the west Front and at Home and in other theatres of the war.

Churchmen (Ineligible) to man them are an Absolute Necessity
PRAY HELP US TO SUPPLY BOTH HUTS AND MEN

Each Hut costs £300, and its Equipment £100
(Week's Working £5 abroad, £2 at Home)

KITCHEN CARS on Western Front.
MUNITIONS CANTENS for ordnance
workers.

HOSTELS for men on leave.

BRITISH PRISONERS in GERMANY. 6s.
parcels.

TREATS FOR TROOPS. 6s. parcels for men
at Front.

RECREATION ROOMS for SOLDIERS'
WIVES.

REST HUTS for girls on munition work.

HOSTELS for girl workers and soldiers' wives
WIVES and WIDOWS in Fresh Air Homes.
FRIENDS for WOUNDED in distant Hospitals.
RELATIVES of WOUNDED escorted abroad.
DISTRESS during and after War.

Cheques crossed "Barclay's a/c Church Army," payable to Prebendary Carlile, D.D., Hon.
Chief Secretary, Headquarters, Bryanston Street, Marble Arch, London, W.

ality so much that the ballad-makers found irresistible. They never wearied of "Sir Blue-string", of "Bob of Lynn". One longs to quote largely, but must be content with a couple of starzas from "The Norfolk Game of Cribbage", to the tune of "Packington's Pound". "Cribbage" is, of course, Walpole's political game.

"At *Shuffling and Cutting* as dext'rous was he
As any old Gamester or Sharper cou'd be;
They'd oft set the Cards, but his Eyes were so quick,
The Cheat he discover'd, and laugh'd at the Trick:
He soon got a Name,
Abroad flew his Fame,
And took special care not to forfeit the same;
But whether he play'd (as some doubt) on the square,
Not a Man in the Kingdom with him could
compare".

Then follows much hostile criticism; in spite of which it is pleasant to find the writer admitting "Bob's" equanimity in the face of abuse.

"Their Language opprobrious he calmly did take,
Remembering the Proverb, *That Losers will speak*;
His temper was even, unruffled his Mind,
To Passion their Taunts could not make him inclin'd;
But tho' they were rude,
His Game he pursued,
And thence great Advantages to him accrued;
He *bilk'd* all their *Cribs*, but his own he secur'd—
Such Fortune, they said, could be never endur'd".

Gone are the old ballads past revival, their very tunes reposing silently in Chappell's "Popular Music of the Olden Time". It is permissible to regret their passing; they were a wholesome outlet for popular feeling. Occasionally coarse, often violent, they were saved from becoming bitter by the genius of ridicule. Even those whom they attacked were disposed to join in the laughter against themselves, knowing their bark to be worse than their bite. We believe them to have been a wholesome element in the national life. We cannot recommend Mr. Percival's collection, with its ample and informing commentary, too strongly. The quality of his book is intensely English, which should be its best recommendation to Englishmen. It is good to be once more reminded, in a fashion so forcible and arresting, of the perennial humour and good humour of our race.

LATEST BOOKS.

WITH THE CANADIANS AT THE FRONT.

"Canada in War Paint." By Captain Ralph W. Bell. Dent.

Captain Bell writes light-heartedly, and makes the best of th everyday events of life in the war zone, in the somewhat fragmentary jottings which he calls "Canada in War Paint", but there is pathos, too, intermingled with the humour of his book. A tall, pale Canadian once said: "We can stand the cold of your climate, but the cold of your houses—No!" Such a verdict makes one think what our brothers from across the ocean must have felt in the wind-swept tents of Salisbury Plain, and Captain Bell's lively description of the torments and tortures endured there on first landing is illuminating. He clinches the matter by saying that mud and water and other discomforts are all very well at the front, but, when they are merely being used for practice, the game is scarcely good enough! "Until the war quite a lot of people hardly knew there were such things as mules," he remarks; but nowadays they have become the rage, and those who wax sentimental over tales from Gallipoli are sure to like the story of James, with his antipathy to red tabs and to carrying a saddle. His antics call to mind Punch's delightful picture of the ecstatic mules no longer able to contain themselves because one of their kind has kicked the Colonel. A whole chapter of the book is dedicated to the beneficent effects of the much discussed rum rations, and goes far to persuade one to consider the man and the moment rather than possible effects on a remote generation. All sorts and conditions of people are to be met in the war zone, and the episode of Marthe, the buxom Flamande, is one of the little tragedies. Her bourgeois soul for business impelled her to traffic with the enemy and brought down ruin on herself, her soldier lover, and the old, old mill whose sails she treacherously misused.

*Shall our Men who
are Prisoners in
Germany starve?*

NO!! *Not if
we can prevent it!*

WE at home are beginning to learn what shortage of food means, but our fellow-countrymen in Germany would actually die of hunger if we did not send them food and comforts.

Away from all they hold dear, at the mercy of a ruthless and unscrupulous foe, they pine and would starve without parcels from home.

The need is pressing; the number is increasing. *We must* not relax our efforts to maintain the supply.

The Royal Savoy Association, which has done this work successfully for two years, is now in urgent need of funds to meet the increasing demand.

Contributions will be gratefully acknowledged by the MANAGER of this paper, or the

Rev. HUGH B. CHAPMAN,
Royal Savoy Association,
7 Savoy Hill, London, W.C.2.



**The Royal Savoy
Association for the
Relief of British
Prisoners of War**

Registered under the War Charities Act.
Authorized by the Central Prisoners of War Committee.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE TELEPHONE.

MR. HERBERT ALLEN, presiding at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Tuesday last, said that in 1916 they did a record business; they added a larger number of subscribers to their several exchanges than in any previous year; they passed a record number of messages, and they had a record income and a record profit. The gross income in 1916 was £93,578, an increase of £11,655 on that of the previous year; their gross profit was £31,598, an increase of £3,713, and their net profit was £25,430, an increase of £2,493. The increased profit was scarcely proportionate to the increased revenue, but that was partly explained by the universal rise in the cost of materials and labour, and in a still greater degree by the loss on remittances. Of the net profit they accounted for £10,000 by a further appropriation to the renewals fund, which now stood at £30,000; they had written down their investments by £2,500; they had placed a further £1,500 to the exchange fluctuation fund, rounding it off to £10,000; the general reserve they had left undisturbed at £25,000; they were applying £9,000 to the payment of a 6 per cent. dividend; and they carried forward £2,430 more than on the previous occasion. Their three reserve funds now amounted to £65,000, and they had all been built up in the last seven years, whilst at the same time they had reduced the debenture debt by nearly £10,000 and given other evidence of their prosperity which he need not particularise. The exchange question was for the moment a disturbing feature in their affairs, and it was one over which the company had no control. Eight or ten years ago the escudo or milreis was within a fraction of its par value—that is, 534d.—and their loss on remittances was only about £300 a year. Since then the exchange had steadily gone against them, until last year it averaged only 34 1/2d., and they lost over £16,000 on their remittances. The present quotation of 31d. was the lowest for the last 20 years. So perhaps it would not be long before the pendulum swung the other way; still, they must be prepared for its going worse before it went better. Then there was the question of capital requirements. In the last 15 years their capital expenditure had been £225,000, or an average of £15,000 a year, and he saw no reason to suppose it would be less in the future; at all events, he hoped not. The business of a telephone company never stood still and they were continually incurring fresh capital outlay, but it was just now difficult to obtain Treasury sanction to new issues, and for some time to come they would probably have to rely more upon surplus revenues for capital requirements. These were the considerations which had influenced the directors in curtailing the dividend until they could see their way ahead a little more clearly, and, after all, a dividend of 6 per cent. in these times, in a business which the war affected adversely in almost every particular, was not so bad. It was not that they had earned only 6 per cent., as a glance at the accounts and the handsome appropriations made to the various reserves out of the year's profits would speedily show. The continuous expansion in their business was sufficient testimony to the efficiency of the service given by the company, and the steady reduction in their average charge per message showed that their prosperity had not been earned regardless of the interests of the public. Apart from the automatic element, he believed there was no more up-to-date telephone system in the world than theirs at Lisbon, and but for the temporary obstacles to the raising of new capital they would now be bringing Oporto equally up to date. The building of a new exchange in that city was the next important capital work to be taken in hand, and this would no doubt be followed by a third exchange in Lisbon, although it was only three years since they opened the second one there, with an ultimate capacity of 6,000 lines. The company started business about 30 years ago with a revenue of £4,934 and a profit of £1,695 derived from 1,423 subscribers. Coming to more recent times, the last twenty years had been a period of uninterrupted progress, and between 1896 and 1916 the gross income had increased from £17,004 to £93,578, the gross profit from £8,310 to £31,598, and the net profit from £4,030 to £25,430. By 1904 they had increased the dividend to 7 1/2 per cent.; then for nine years running they paid 8 per cent., and the directors saw no reason why the near future should compare unfavourably with the recent past. The present reduction was more in the nature of a precautionary measure than an actual necessity.

NOBEL'S EXPLOSIVE.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Nobel's Explosive Company, Ltd., was held on Wednesday, Sir RALPH W. ANSTRUTHER, Bt., presiding.

The CHAIRMAN said: Ladies and gentlemen, from the directors' report you will have seen that the board have found it impracticable to submit the usual statement of accounts. As I informed you at the last meeting, your factories were declared controlled establishments under the Munitions of War Act on March 6, 1916, and the annual accounts to December 31, 1916, cover the first accounting period under this control. I need not say that the cumulative effect of that Act and the Finance Acts makes it very difficult to judge the position with certainty, and until the accounts can be adjusted in respect of the company's liability it is not feasible to give you any reliable balance-sheet. Furthermore, since the war we have made contracts with the Government in regard to which there are certain minor adjustments pending. These latter are not of sufficient magnitude materially to affect the year's results, but nevertheless, taken in conjunction with control liability adjustments, they preclude the preparation of a balance-sheet for the year within such time as would enable the company to fulfil its statutory obligations in regard to the holding of the annual meeting.

In the anticipation that it would be more acceptable to shareholders to have their usual dividend payment made to them without delay, the directors have made an estimate of the year's profits, and the result of that estimate justifies us in coming before you to-day with the recommendation that the dividend and bonus for 1916 be 20 per cent. in all, or an increase of 5 per cent. over the previous year. We propose to continue the payment of that distribution "free of income tax," an important advantage at the present rate. During the year under

review we have, in common with most other industries, met with many difficulties, and it is a matter for legitimate pride that those difficulties have all been surmounted, and that we have been able to contribute a very important share towards the naval and military requirements of our country during this stupendous war. This has been much appreciated by the various Government Departments. I cannot speak too highly of the loyalty and enthusiasm of the entire staff and of the workers at your factories in their unceasing efforts to secure increased output of the explosives required by our Government. It is a very fortunate circumstance and reflects great credit on all concerned that we have been completely immune from explosions during the year under review and up to the present time. No effort has been spared to release men for the military services, and we have met the labour requirements of the extended output by the introduction of a much larger percentage of female workers. The abnormal conditions now prevailing have naturally resulted in increased cost of materials and labour, while selling prices have, generally speaking, been reduced. The increase in our output has compensated for these factors.

Restrictions imposed in the national interests have made the retention of your pre-war position in industrial explosives and their accessories a matter of supreme difficulty. Recognising, however, that not only in your interests, but also in the interests of the future of British trade, we must retain our position, we have made considerable sacrifices, and we intend to continue this policy in order to hold our trade. We have succeeded in keeping the consumers well protected with supplies. Your investments in companies domiciled in other parts of the Empire have been most successful, and have contributed in a large measure to the satisfactory proposal as to dividend and bonus.

CHANNEL TUNNEL.

The ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING was held on Friday, 8 June, BARON EMILE BEAUMONT D'ERLANGER, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN observed that since the war began the policy of the directors, which had been approved by the shareholders in general meeting, that the company should remain expectant and quiescent, and not endeavour to make capital out of the lesson taught them by the war in order to promote the interests of the project and to advocate its cause, had been strictly adhered to. He firmly believed that that patriotic attitude had borne fruit. Never in the last 30 years of the company's career had public opinion shown a more decided turn than had been the case in the past twelve months in favour of the tunnel, and an important House of Commons Committee had been formed to advocate its construction. There might be a tendency among responsible members of the Government to postpone the question of a decision as to the project until after the war. He would not criticise or complain even if that should be the case, but he thought he was perfectly justified, on behalf of the shareholders and the directors, in expressing the hope that such an attitude would not be taken up by the Government, and that it would see its way, if not to authorise during the war the construction of the tunnel, at least to give a decision on the principle as to the advisability of its construction, so that the work which still had to be done might be carried on without loss of time. He believed that that was the attitude which would be taken up by the House of Commons Committee to which he had referred. The company had been, as it were, pushing a stone up a mountain for the last 30 years—sometimes gaining ground, sometimes seeing the stone roll back upon them, but they had never given up the fight, and he believed that within a very short time they would see their endeavours crowned with success. He concluded by proposing the adoption of the report and accounts.

Replying to an observation of Sir Robert Perks, Bart., the Chairman continued:—The landslide which occurred over a year ago made the construction of a new line to connect Dover and Folkestone absolutely necessary. The route it must take must, to a certain extent, depend upon where the entrance of the tunnel on the English side should be, and therefore a decision on the matter was most urgent, not only from the point of view of the Channel Tunnel, but also from the point of view of the South Eastern and Chatham Railway.

The motion was carried unanimously.

ELY CATHEDRAL

Visitors will find First Class Hotel Accommodation at the 'LAMB' Family Hotel, which is situated close to the Cathedral. MODERATE TERMS. Omnibus meets all trains.

Proprietor, S. AIREY.

AT BOURNEMOUTH

HYDRO Visitors enjoy every Hotel Comfort, with the Baths and Amusements of a Hydro at moderate cost.

BARGAINS IN BOOKS.

Glaisher's Catalogue of Publishers' Reminders sent free on application to WILLIAM GLAISHER, Ltd., 265 High Holborn, London, W.C.1. All Books in new condition as when originally published. No second-hand books kept.

WHY YOU SHOULD READ *The Pall Mall Gazette*

BECAUSE the secret of its Great and Rapidly Extending Influence is that its predominant feature is NEWS.

It covers in a bright, crisp and easily found manner every important happening.

Readers of the "Pall Mall Gazette" can rest assured that they are missing nothing that matters, whether it be foreign, home, colonial, financial, sporting or legal news.

The lawyer will find the Cause List in the Final Edition every evening.

Other features are the Woman's Page, and the notes on Literature, Music, Art and the Drama.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION to the "Pall Mall Gazette" are as follows:—

	Per Quarter	Per Annum
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Special Edition ...	0 9 9	1 19 0
Final Night War (late fee) ...	0 13 0	2 12 0
ABROAD		
Special Edition ...	0 13 0	2 12 0
Final Night War (late fee) ...	0 16 3	3 5 0

The Special Edition will be sent for any less period pro rata—that is, for 9d. per week prepaid; the Final Night War for 1/- per week.

**THE
Pall Mall Gazette**

Publishing Office: 25 TUDOR ST., LONDON, E.C.

The Financial Review of Reviews

JUNE ISSUE

contains the following

SPECIAL ARTICLES:

The Commercial Future of Flight
CLAUDE GRAHAME-WHITE, HARRY HARPER

British Railway Problems: Financial,
Economic and Political E. T. GOOD

The Curtailment of Luxuries: Its Economic
and Financial Effect C. R. STILES, F.S.S.

Women and Investment
JEAN GREIG, MARY V. GIBSON

The Shortage of Working-Class Dwellings
A. W. SHELTON, F.A.I.

A SPECIMEN COPY WILL BE SENT
POST FREE ON APPLICATION.

1/- net

ON SALE AT ALL BOOKSTALLS.

THE FINANCIAL REVIEW OF REVIEWS
2 Waterloo Place, London, S.W.1.

Messrs. CONSTABLE'S LIST

The Expansion of Europe

By RAMSAY MUIR, Professor of Modern History in the University of Manchester. 6s. net.

"A very welcome book, admirably planned and admirably executed. We could not wish for a better introduction to the history of the British Empire; and it will be found valuable by those who already know a good deal about the subject. It indicates with precision the main lines and phases of Imperial development; it expounds sympathetically the ideas which from time to time, or at all times, have governed the policy of British Empire-builders."—Mr. H. W. C. DAVIS, Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, in the *Manchester Guardian*.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

Nationalism and Internationalism

Third Printing.

4s. 6d. net.

L. of C. (Lines of Communication)

By Capt. JAMES E. AGATE, A Temporary Officer in the Army Service Corps. 6s. net.

Letters of a Soldier

Translated from the French by V. M. With an Introductory Note by A. CLUTTON-BROCK. 4s. 6d. net.

At the Front

Papers contributed to "Punch" by the late Lieut. ALEC JOHNSTON. With a Preface by Sir OWEN SEAMAN, and Portrait. 3s. 6d. net.

The Marne Campaign

By Major F. E. WHITTON. Maps. 10s. 6d. net.

LAND AND WATER says:—"Major Whitton's book has been welcomed as the first professional account written for soldiers by a soldier in this country of the great action which decided the form of the war. It is by far the most important book which has yet appeared upon the subject, and merits a close examination. No notice of the book would be complete without due praise for the very full bibliography. The index also is excellent, and the maps very clear and sufficient."

The Latin at War

By WILL IRWIN.

6s. net.

"Very human, lively and full of colour."—*MORNING POST*.

With the Turks in Palestine

By A. AARONSOHN.

2s. net.

"An extraordinarily graphic account generally of Turkish ruthlessness and of German unscrupulousness, while the particular story of his own enslavement and of his escape from it is of quite thrilling interest."—*SPECTATOR*.

MAKERS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Edited by BASIL WILLIAMS.

6s. net each.

New Volumes

DIAZ By DAVID HANNAY.

HERBERT SPENCER By HUGH ELLIOT.

"An excellent estimate of Herbert Spencer's life work."—*LANCET*.
"His vital and vigorous book."—*MR. HAVELOCK ELLIS in The Nation*.

Previously Published

ABRAHAM LINCOLN By LORD CHARNWOOD.

DELANE OF THE TIMES By Sir E. T. COOK.

TWO FINE NOVELS

THE REAL ADVENTURE. By H. K. WEBSTER, Author of "The Whispering Man." 5s. net.

PINCUS HOOD. By ARTHUR HODGES. 5s. net.

A Charming Reminiscence of the happy days of boyhood.

DAYS OF DISCOVERY

By BERTRAM SMITH.

4s. 6d. net.

10 ORANGE STREET, LONDON, W.C.2.

BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY LIST

The Best Descriptive Account of the War.

THE SCENE OF WAR

By V. C. SCOTT O'CONNOR.
5s. net.

"Enthralling, vivid, thoughtful, and original."—

The Times.

"No one has seen so much, and few can describe so well."—*The Globe.*

THE TALE OF A CASUALTY CLEARING STATION

By A ROYAL FIELD LEECH.
5s. net.

"A vivacious story of hard work, of endurance, and of heroism."—*The Scotsman.*

GOG

The Story of an Officer and Gentleman.
By ARTHUR FETTERLESS.
5s. net.

"This is a war story pure and simple, and one of the very best that have been written."—*Spectator.*

WOUNDED AND A PRISONER OF WAR

By AN EXCHANGED OFFICER.
With Illustrations.
5s. net.

"This book should be largely circulated in the United States to open the eyes of Americans so that they may realise what fiendish cruelty Teutonic 'Kultur' is capable of."—*Medical Times.*

OPEN BOATS

By ALFRED NOYES.
2s. net.

"Too true stories of German piracy on the high seas."—*Daily Chronicle.*

"The subject is handled in a masterly fashion."—*The Graphic.*

"Buy it, read it, and pass it on."—*The World.*

The duty of the day—The recreation of the day
READ

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS,
EDINBURGH AND LONDON.

MACMILLAN'S LIST A Diversity of Creatures Stories by Rudyard Kipling

Uniform Edition. Extra Crown 8vo. 6s.

Pocket Edition. Fcap. 8vo. Cloth, 4s. 6d. net.
Leather, 5s. net.

By SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE.

Annals of the Royal Society Club

The Record of a London Dining Club in the 18th and 19th Centuries. By SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, O.M., K.C.B., D.C.L., Past President of the Royal Society. With Contemporary Portraits. 8vo. 18s. net.

Poems. By RALPH HODGSON. 3s. 6d. net.

THE TIMES.—"In the new volume the poems stand the test of collective and separate presentment well, and promise, it seems to us, to endure as long as anything of our time, whether as a rounded achievement on a small scale or as earnest of larger things to come."

Social and International Ideals:

Being Studies in Patriotism. By BERNARD BOSANQUET, LL.D., Author of "The Philosophical Theory of the State," etc. Crown 8vo. 6s. net.

W. & A. K. Johnston's War Map of Palestine.

Size 26 x 22 inches. Printed in Colours. Cloth, Rollers, Varnished, 2s. net. Cloth, Folded, 1s. 3d. net. Unmounted Sheet, 6d. net.

MACMILLAN & CO., LTD., LONDON.

NOW READY.

The Posthumous Poems of ALGERNON SWINBURNE

Edited by EDMUND GOSSE, C.B., and T. J. WISE, with an Introduction by EDMUND GOSSE, C.B. Demy 8vo. 6/- net. Also an Edition de Luxe on hand-made paper, limited to 300 copies. Price 30/- net.

NEW VOLUMES OF POETRY.

LOLLINGDON DOWNS

Poems by JOHN MASEFIELD. Author of "Dauber," etc. 3/6 net.

THE OLD HUNTSMAN

Poems by SIEGFRIED SASSOON. 3/- net.

POEMS AND LYRICS

By G. RESTON MALLOCH. 3/6 net.

BOOKS ON THE WAR.

THE TURNING POINT

By H. PERRY ROBINSON. Demy 8vo. 6/- net.
"A very clear detailed and convincing account of the Somme Battles."—*Glasgow Herald.*

MY '75

By PAUL LINTIER. 3/6 net.

THE LOVERS

A True Story of the War.

By ELIZABETH ROBINS PENNELL. Fcap. 8vo. 2/6 net.
"The letters are the best pictures of the personal side of war that we have encountered."—*Pall Mall.*

THE LATEST FICTION.

Mr. Heinemann announces that Mr. Eden Phillpotts' new novel is now ready.

THE NURSERY

EDEN PHILLPOTTS. 6/- n.

SECRET BREAD

F. TENNYSON JESSE. 6/- n.

ZELLA SEES HERSELF

E. M. DELAFIELD. 6/- n.

REGIMENT OF WOMEN

CLEMENCE DANF. (3rd Imp.) 5/- n.

BEEF, IRON AND WINE

JACK LAIT. 3/6 n.

THE HAPPY GARRET

V. GOLDIE. 5/- n.

WM. HEINEMANN, 21, BEDFORD ST., W.C.

THE FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, including Ceylon and Burma. Published under the Authority of the Secretary of State for India in Council. Medium 8vo. with Text illustrations and 5 Plates (1 col.). COLEOPTERA, LAMELLICORNIA, Part II. (Rutelinae, Desmonevinae, and Eucirinae). 15s. London: TAYLOR & FRANCIS, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street. Calcutta: THACKER, SPINK & CO. Bombay: THACKER & CO., Ltd.

THE WAR VICTIMS' RELIEF COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

is carrying on a great *Work of Relief* of the helpless Victims of the War in France, in Belgium, also in Corsica (in conjunction there with the Serbian Relief Committee), of the refugees from down-trodden Serbia. Also in the Buzuluk District of the Government of Samara in *distant Russia*.

Its work consists in Medical, Nursing and General Relief Work—in providing a number of *small wooden houses* for the homeless in France, where they have supplied the occupants with furniture, bedding, and general household requisites.

They have supplied the peasant farmers with *mowing and reaping machines*, to replace those so wantonly destroyed by the hostile military, also *threshing machines* and the power to drive them. In *Russia* they have found a destitute *population needing everything* that civilised life requires, *Medical attention and Nursing of the sick*, clothing, occupation in a variety of ways, including wool-spinning, knitting and weaving, and making up the woven materials into clothing, which is so much needed.

They have raised, chiefly from their own members in Great Britain and Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand,

One Hundred and Thirty-Eight Thousand Pounds

of which much the greater portion has been already spent. They are now spending at the **Rate of ONE THOUSAND POUNDS a Week**, and they ask the **General Public** to help them to provide this large and increasing sum of money, in order that this

Work of Mercy and Christian Charity

may be sustained and extended.

Contributions may be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Miss A. RUTH FRY, at the Offices of the Committee, ETHELBURGA HOUSE, 91 Bishopsgate, London, E.C., by whom they will be thankfully acknowledged.